



JJCMHS WINGS

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Upcoming Dates

18th December - Term 4 ends

6th February - Year 7 -12 return

17th-21st February - Construction Work Placement

4th March- Swimming Carnival

12th March - NAPLAN begins

From the Principal

As we reach the end of another very busy and productive year it is good to reflect upon what has been achieved and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of staff, students, parents and our broader community. I feel very happy and fortunate to work in such a great community. It is because of this that acknowledging our community is always a great pleasure.

Thank you to our partner primary schools, Mascot Public, Eastlakes, Gardeners Road and Botany Public School. We have enjoyed building connections between our schools to improve transition and continuity in learning for students transitioning from primary to high school.

Thank you to our amazing, supportive P&C. As principal, I will never take your important contributions for granted and I always look forward to meeting and working with you. In case some members of our community still do not know, JJCMHS did not have an official P&C for the last 20 years. Two years ago, families again committed to putting their hands up to take up official roles in the P&C. We have regular meetings, twice per term. If you want to join a dynamic group of families having their say about learning and making a difference for children attending JJCMHS please join.

Our P&C raised money and the school profile at events such as Big Night Out, Elections, and Community Events such as Bay Side Fair. They also wrote grants, which make a big difference for the school in terms of raising its profile, improving facilities and building a shared community.



In 2024, the second instalment of the partnership took place with the University of Technology Sydney landscape architecture department. Adding to the garden at the front of the school and establishing a new garden to create a space for students to enjoy in the centre of the school, between the library and the basketball courts. Thank you to staff, parents and students who gave up their Saturday to make this a success. This project is in its second year. The idea came from Daniel Girling Butcher, who has brought together an ensemble of experts in the field. I'd also like to acknowledge Tanya Wood, who made sure the course ran and has now gained 2 state and a national award for the

project. She won't be stopped at that and has now looked at entering the project into an international landscape competition.

Student leadership continues to develop and grow at JJCMHS. Every year I am excited to see how our students continue to develop in their ability to see beyond their world and lead. At the end of 2024 I was excited when the SRC President organised a meeting with me to discuss potential improvements to our school. A week later our SRC president was joined by a delegation of leaders, including one of our captains and vice captains, to discuss how we might improve the school. I am always excited by young people trying to improve their world. Let's make a difference together.

Thank you to our amazing teaching staff and all the things you do every day to make a difference to students' learning and lives. I am continually impressed by the quality of teachers at JJCMHS. They care about the children and know how to build positive supportive and trusting relationships with students, which enhances student connection to school and improves learning.

We have an outstanding administration team led by Ms Amalia Prelec. The administration team is the front facing team. The team who answers phone calls and great community members and well as completing the vast array of documentation and paperwork for the school. They do it with a smile on their face making sure that our school provides a welcoming and positive atmosphere to all who make contact with the school. Thank you, Amalia, for leading your team to bring in a new uniform.

Thank you to the senior executive team Mr John Mifsud and Ms Sian Batista De Mello, who have done an outstanding job as Deputy Principals. This is a challenging and complex role that is relentless in its demand on time. It can be at times very stressful and both John and Sian do this in a manner to build confidence and relational trust. John has many years' experience that he brings to the role and has mentored many staff in how to effectively lead. I find his support, expertise, calmness and knowledge invaluable. Thank you, Ms Batista De Mello, for taking on the special role this year leading the development of partnerships with outside agencies, local primary schools and universities, developing a media strategy with Ms Loretta Mourgis, Ms Cecileigh Patten, Ms Emma Rosewarne and Ms Georgina McInnes, and developing a High Potential Gifted Education Strand to our teaching and learning.

Of course, you cannot name everyone in a message like this, but it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the work of our Student Learning Support Officers for their work in supporting teachers in the classroom and our General Assistant Joe Mishawi. Joe maintains the grounds; repairs items logged by staff and works with trades who come onsite. He has a high work ethic and a commitment to make JJCMHS a better place.

I would also like to acknowledge the staff who will be leaving us at the end of this year. Your contributions to our school have been immeasurable, and your presence will be greatly missed. Whether you've been with us for a short time or many years, your impact on our students, staff, and the entire school community will be felt long after you leave. We thank you for your passion, your efforts, and the positive mark you've made on the lives of those around you. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavors and hope that the experiences you've had here will stay with you as you embark on your next chapter.

I wish you the very best over the Christmas break. I hope that in this very busy time you have time to stop and reconnect with family and friends. If you are going away over the Christmas break or having a Sydney summer enjoy, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all back in the new year.

Ralph David





From the Deputy Principal



A lot has happened at school this term and an excitable atmosphere was very obvious. While students have been busy with assessment tasks and teachers are finalising end of year reports, Year 10 have been busy preparing for a week of work experience, Year 11 students have rolled over to Year 12 HSC courses and Years 7 and 8 students have appreciated the hot temperatures with three days of swim school. There have also been gala days, excursions, sport games against other schools in Basketball and Volleyball and the weekly sports program. In addition some Year groups will engage in opportunities to connect with camps and wellbeing excursions.

In addition our students were invited to be representatives of the NSW Department of Education in a Young Writers workshop and a visit from a very distinguished guest. We have also inducted our student leaders with the Leadership body and the Student representative Council.

We have also worked hard to connect with local schools to provide opportunities to play games of Basketball and Volleyball. Students have been preparing and honing their skills in these sports for nearly the whole year now. We are so impressed with their persistence and commitment. This is excellent preparation for the sporting competitions in 2025.

Of course the school year culminated in another edition of Big Night Out, highlighting student talents and we thank all of the performers, Mr Lim-Klumpes and the performing arts team for their direction and support of student performances. We also thank the Visual Arts faculty for putting together all our student work into the much anticipated annual exhibition. Sharing BNO with our school community and seeing parents and families once again is always a highlight in our school calendar. We finished the year with students receiving academic reports for you to gain more perspective of your child's educational development.

Please remember over the school holidays there is a chance for learning to be reinforced and skills consolidated across all subjects with consistent school attendance. We have improved our school attendance data in 2024 but we could still be doing better to reach targets and equal state average. 2024 has been a great year at JJCMHS. I would like to thank all the parents who have supported me and our staff to work with us in supporting your child. I would also like to thank all teachers, SLSOs and Administration staff for their tireless commitment to all students and colleagues as we work with each other every day. It has been our pleasure to work with the whole school community and we look forward to doing it all again in 2025. Have a restful and enjoyable summer!!

John Mifsud



From the Acting Deputy Principal Community and Engagement

What a fantastic term and year it has been! I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all staff, students, parents, carers, and organisations that have contributed to our exceptional programs and initiatives this year.

Term 4 has been particularly exciting, as we have collaborated with numerous groups and organisations both within and outside our school. One key initiative involved working with our Student Representative Council (SRC), empowering our future leaders to express their views and help shape the future direction of our school and beyond. On October 22, 2024, Aldardelger D and Alya W proudly represented our school at the DOVES Minister's Council Students Forum for the Metro South Directorate.

We also partnered with our Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association to create enriching opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career in psychology. We were fortunate to welcome Dr. Helen Paterson, Associate Professor at the University of Sydney's Faculty of Science, School of Psychology. She generously volunteered her time to speak with our Year 9 Psychology class and interested senior students about the pathway to becoming a psychologist.

Additionally, Ms Tickle and I supported Irene T, Madileine M, Jack S, Lachlan C, and Tanesha M-W in attending a High Potential and Gifted Writers Workshop, where they had the honour of meeting several distinguished guests, including the Deputy Premier, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Her Majesty Queen Camilla.



This year, we also formed an exciting partnership with Ardoch, which provided free and engaging opportunities for our students. Notable programs included the Robots in Residence Program, where students participated in six workshops on block coding, and robots were generously donated to the school. Additionally, we organised a Year 10 Commerce Excursion to Canva and a Year 8 Geography Excursion to Observatory Hill. Thank you, Ardoch, for these amazing opportunities for our students!

Our latest Community Update features Year 9 student Aldardelger D, who shared his remarkable achievements at the International Mathematical and Science Olympiad with our Department of Education media team. We are also working closely with our media team to finalise new school banners, a virtual tour for our website, and an updated prospectus, all in preparation for Open Night 2025.



I have had the privilege of working closely with our primary schools and being part of an incredible Aboriginal female mentoring program called SistaSpeak. A big thank you to the staff, primary schools, and students involved in this initiative.

I also enjoyed participating with our Aboriginal students and our Gardening sport students at La Perouse, collaborating with UTS at Indigrow, and taking a coastal walk to assist UTS students as they designed the new landscape for our main student area.

As the year comes to a close, I have been working on developing our draft High Potential and Gifted Education program, which we will share with our community for consultation early next year.

Lastly, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our media team, Ms Rosewarne, Ms McInnes, Ms Patten, and Ms Mougios, for their hard work in all aspects of media and promotion. They have done an outstanding job, and I thank them sincerely.

Wishing everyone a restful holiday season!

Sian Batista De Mello

Year Advisors

Year 7

Welcome to the curtain call for Year 7! Your very first year of high school has drawn to a close and it's time to reflect on what an amazing term it's been.

In Term 4, Year 7 swapped their desks for the pool at our annual Swim School program. Over three days, students learned essential water safety skills, improved their swimming techniques, and competed in some friendly races. Parents can rest easy knowing their kids are better equipped for water safety this summer.

This term, a group of talented Year 7 students participated in a prestigious Young Writers Program. As part of their journey, they honed their creative writing skills with local authors. The highlight of the program? Meeting none other than Her Majesty Queen Camilla!

As we wrap up the year, we're so proud of how far our Year 7 students have come. Transitioning from primary to high school is no small feat, and they have embraced this change with courage and enthusiasm. To all our Year 7 families, thank you for your support this year - it truly takes a village to guide young people through this exciting chapter of their lives.

See you next year!

Nathaniel McGuire

Year 8

As we wrap up another eventful term, Year 8 students have enjoyed a range of exciting activities, fostering learning, growth, and teamwork both inside and outside the classroom. One of the highlights of the term was the Year 8 excursion to Luna Park. Students spent the day enjoying the iconic rides and attractions, bonding with friends, and making unforgettable memories. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to unwind and enjoy a day of pure enjoyment.

Another significant event was the RAISE Mentoring Program Graduation Day. This program provides Year 8 students with the chance to develop valuable life skills through mentorship. The Graduation Day was a special occasion, where students celebrated their hard work, personal growth, and the positive relationships they've built with their mentors.

The Boys Soccer Gala Day was another exciting event where our Year 8 boys showcased their sporting talents. The day was filled with energy, competition, and team spirit, as students from

various schools gathered to play in a series of friendly matches. The event provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop their soccer skills, build camaraderie, and enjoy some healthy competition.

It's been an incredible term, and we look forward to more adventures and achievements to come. On a sad note, I bid farewell to Year 8, it has been a pleasure being your Year Advisor over the past 2 years. I wish the students all the best for the future, I know you will do great things!

Ian Hooper

Year 9

It has been an impressive year for our Year 9 cohort where we have seen a growth in their maturity and a sense of positivity in the year group. Teachers have shared positive feedback, highlighting the respect, attentiveness, and engagement that students are showing in the classroom. It has been wonderful to observe the way students are collaborating, supporting one another, and striving for excellence in their studies. Students have embraced the school uniform policy, presenting themselves proudly as members of our school community.

A large number of students put themselves forward for the Student Representative Council (SRC) leadership elections, and it speaks volumes about the leadership potential and dedication within this group. Congratulations to those elected, and thank you to all who applied for stepping up and demonstrating your commitment to our school.

As we approach the summer holidays, I encourage you to take the time to rest, recharge, and enjoy quality time with loved ones. Thank you for making 2024 such a memorable and successful year. I look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for the exciting challenges of Year 10 in 2025!

Phil Nguyen

Year 10

...And that's a wrap on the junior school years! Congratulations to Year 10 for attaining the Record of School Achievement!

As this chapter closes, career pathways were at the forefront of this cohort's mind. They gained invaluable experience through their Mock Interviews with some amazing guests and the students displayed an immense amount of respect and confidence despite some understandable nerves at the beginning of the day. They also embarked on their Work Experience as part of their Careers curriculum in Week 8 this term - from landscaping and engineering to teaching and support services. These have been amazing opportunities for our students to better prepare themselves for life after school, where they can be trusted to be independent, motivated, contributing members of society.

Special mention to Amy N for her selection in a highly competitive STEM program this term and a collection of students who have furthered their interest in Engineering with UNSW.

I am proud to witness our students taking every opportunity that has been offered to them and demonstrating our school values in and outside of school. I look forward to welcoming everyone back for a positive start to 2025. Have a safe and restful break!

Jenna Evans

Year 11

It is hard to believe that your first term of your HSC year is already done! A highlight of this term was the Life Ready Camp at the Cataract Activity Centre, where students bonded through activities like water sliding, caving, the giant swing, and a multitude of team challenges. These experiences built resilience, camaraderie and strengthened connections within the group, setting a strong foundation for the challenges ahead in their final year of schooling. Another highlight was the appointment of our newly elected School Leadership Team. Congratulations, we are so proud to have you all represent us as a Year 12 Cohort and we know that in your time as leaders you will accomplish a lot for our school.

As the year concludes, our Year 12 cohort can reflect on a productive start to their HSC studies. They've tackled the initial coursework, completed their first assessments and developed a new appreciation of how important it is to stay organised and meet deadlines. Developing consistent revision routines now will help build confidence for the year ahead.

Let's keep the momentum going by staying proactive and supporting each other throughout this important year! Congratulations to all students for their hard work and dedication. Enjoy a well-deserved break, and we look forward to continuing the journey in 2025!

Georgina McInnes





It certainly has been an action packed Term 4 in the HSIE arena. There have been a range of excellent opportunities for students to engage in field work and visit some interesting venues to develop their learning in real life situations. We encourage all of our learners to continue to engage in opportunities provided by our faculty to enrich their understanding of the multi-faceted areas that make up HSIE and continue to be inquisitive about the world around us.

Remembrance Day

Our newest school leaders did a wonderful job leading our Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11th, a day when we acknowledged those who died or suffered while serving in wars, conflicts and peace operations. Everyone who was involved in leading the ceremony did so with honour and respect, and for many of our student leadership team this was the first opportunity to do so in front of our whole school. Thank you to all of our school community for demonstrating respect and engaging in the ceremony in a positive manner.

Commerce

Year 10 Commerce students had an excellent experience visiting Canva Headquarters at Surry Hills in Week 6. Students gained valuable insights into the company's operations, structure, and workspaces. Students displayed outstanding behaviour, actively participated in discussions, and asked insightful questions, making the excursion both engaging and highly rewarding for all involved.



Geography

On Wednesday the 11th of December, Year 8 students from J J Cahill Memorial had an excursion to the iconic Sydney Observatory. The afternoon event was packed with fun, discovery, and hands-on learning, aimed at bringing classroom studies of geography and astronomy to life. The excursion included an interactive tour of the observatory, where students learnt about the history of this important site, dating back to its establishment in 1858. The observatory has a fascinating collection

of telescopes, artefacts, and engaging exhibits. Of particular note was the opportunity for students to view the sun through a specially-equipped solar telescope. Students saw sunspots and solar flares, bringing textbook pages to life in real-time. They also witnessed how the Observatory served a meteorologic function to help the Bureau of Meteorology determine the upcoming weather of Sydney. This consolidated the learning undertaken in Term 3 & 4 in the 'Water in the World' and 'Interconnections' unit, providing another real-world learning experience that extended beyond the classroom.

Legal Studies

This term, Jacqueline D had the opportunity to represent the school in the annual NSW Schools Constitutional Convention. Schools across NSW sent one delegate to participate in a day at NSW Parliament, where students debated about various topics within the legal system and were immersed in the workings of the parliament. Jacqueline showcased her legal knowledge, debated with students from different schools and gained invaluable skills that will benefit her progression as a student in Legal Studies. We would like to formally acknowledge the support and guidance that was provided to all students from:

- The Legislative Council Chamber
- Parliament of NSW
- The President, The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, and Professor Emerita Anne Twomey AO, of the University of Sydney, with student delegates at the 30th NSW Schools Constitutional Convention, 5 November 2024



The HSIE faculty would like to wish everyone a safe and rejuvenating break and we look forward to welcoming you back for another great year of learning in 2025.

HSIE Faculty

Creative Arts

It has been a dynamic term in the Visual Arts department, with students across all year levels showcasing creativity and commitment.

Year 10 students in PDM and Visual Arts have completed their Yearly Examinations and should be congratulated for the way they were able to apply their knowledge of key concepts, such as the Frames and the Conceptual Framework, to analyse and create thoughtful responses. Photographic and Digital Media students also studied the works of Christian Thompson and created self portraits that reflected their inner world.

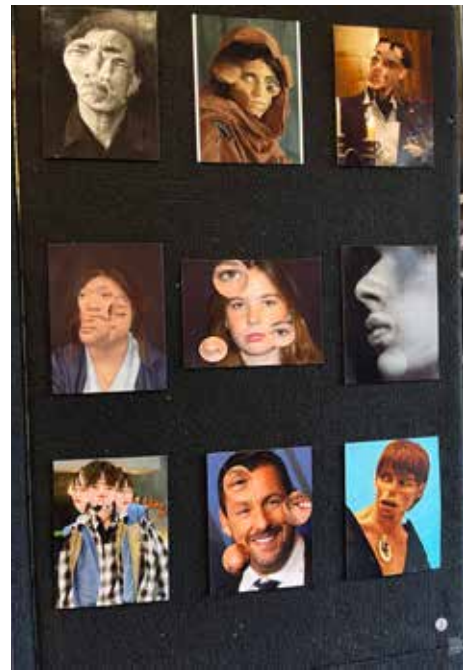
Meanwhile, in Junior Visual Arts, Year 7 students have been exploring three-dimensional design, creating charming ceramic portrait planters that highlight their developing skills in creating expressive sculptures and using a range of clay techniques. Year 8 classes have embraced the bold and vibrant world of Pop Art, producing eye-catching sculptures that celebrate consumer culture and everyday objects. Year 9 students have turned their attention to their local surroundings, designing lino prints inspired by the suburban environment. Their prints beautifully capture the unique characteristics of architecture in Mascot.

Year 12 students have embarked on the HSC course, beginning their journey towards creating their Bodies of Work. They are already developing exciting ideas, demonstrating thoughtfulness and originality in their concepts, working in a range of different artmaking media.

Our year culminated in the annual Big Night Out Exhibition which showcased the year's work, highlighting student strengths and achievements in the creative sphere. BNO audience members commented on how successful the exhibition was and acknowledged the high standard reflected in the artworks.

We are incredibly proud of all our students and look forward to seeing their continued growth as artists.

Visual Arts Faculty



Students in the Technology and Applied Sciences faculty have been busy getting hands-on with a variety of exciting projects, all of which showcase their creativity, problem-solving skills, and technical abilities. Here's a glimpse into what our students accomplished in the workshop this term.

The Year 7 Technology Mandatory students were introduced to the fundamentals of Materials Technology through their timber projects. This unit encourages them to explore the properties and uses of timber, while developing their practical skills. Students crafted a range of items including desk lamps, wooden dice, and tic-tac-toe boards. The desk lamp project not only teaches them basic woodworking techniques but also introduces them to the importance of design and functionality. Students were tasked with creating a lamp that is not only aesthetically pleasing but also practical for everyday use. The wooden dice and tic-tac-toe boards allow students to develop precision and accuracy while having fun with their creations.

Year 8 students recently completed an exciting textiles module, where they learned different embroidery stitches to create their own unique designs on felt. Using a range of stitches, including back stitch, running stitch, satin stitch, and French knots, students were able to express their creativity and improve their fine motor skills.

In the kitchen corner, year 8 have been busy growing food and preparing it. From fresh mulberry jam, san choy bow, salad and burgers. Students have been thrilled to watch ingredients grow and incorporate them into tasty dishes!

Our Year 9 Timber students built on their skills with more complex timber projects that demanded higher levels of craftsmanship and attention to detail. In their recent work, students designed and created wooden toolboxes and timber bowls. The wooden tool boxes required students to understand how to combine both strength and aesthetics in their work, as these projects are designed to be both functional and durable. The timber bowls were a chance for students to practise their carving and turning skills and they learnt to manipulate timber into smooth, even surfaces.

Year 10 Graphics Technology students created a series of successful animations using Adobe Animate where they showcased their skills with shape tweens, opacity and rotation in computer animation. They also completed a unit where they developed designs using CAD technology that were 3D printed. They engaged well with the course and enjoyed developing a wide range of skills while experiencing the breadth of the Adobe software suite.

Our Year 12 Construction students worked on a series of ambitious outdoor joinery projects, each one requiring a blend of construction skills and practical knowledge. One of the key projects involved

an extraction cabinet that was designed for industrial use. This project allowed students to apply their knowledge of timber framing, concrete laying, and colorbond sheeting. In addition to timber framing, the project also introduced the students to concrete pouring, a fundamental skill in construction. Understanding how to mix, lay, and level concrete is critical to building solid foundations for various structures. As part of the project, students also worked with colorbond sheeting to construct the exterior of the cabinet, where they learnt how to cut, shape, and fit the sheets correctly. These hands-on experiences help students apply their learning to real-world situations, preparing them for careers in construction and related fields.

TAS Faculty



Our students have been hard at work in a variety of hands-on subjects, showing impressive creativity and skill across Food Technology and Hospitality courses this term.

Year 9 – Exploring Food Equity

Year 9 students delved into the important topic of food equity. They explored food availability and access both across Australia and globally. This module challenged students to consider the social, economic, and environmental factors that affect food distribution, sparking thoughtful discussions and increased awareness about the issues surrounding food insecurity.

Year 10 – Special Dietary Needs

In Year 10, students tackled the challenge of cooking for special dietary needs, learning how to adapt recipes for various conditions such as allergies, intolerances, and cultural preferences.

Year 12 – Preparing for the Service Period Assessment

Year 12 students have been busy honing their cooking skills in preparation for their upcoming service period assessment, where they will be tasked with cooking a three-course menu. This practical assessment will showcase their ability to plan, prepare, and present a professional-quality meal.

Our students continue to impress with their passion, dedication, and creativity. We look forward to seeing even more of their culinary achievements in the future!

Elaine McIntyre



Mathematics 7–10

Students in Years 7–10 have explored various mathematical concepts that build problem-solving skills and practical knowledge.

- Year 7 focused on indices and equations, using activities to understand powers and apply equations to real-world problems.
- Year 8 worked on rates, ratios, and volume, connecting geometry to everyday applications.
- Year 9 explored financial mathematics, including budgeting and compound interest, applying concepts to realistic scenarios.
- Year 10 tackled algebra and graphing techniques, studying linear and quadratic functions to model and analyse situations.

Senior Mathematics

- Year 11 students engaged in advanced topics like sequences, series, further algebra, and functions. They explored patterns, solved complex equations, and applied trigonometry to real-world scenarios.

Science 7–10

Students in Years 7–10 have delved into Earth and Space Science, exploring connections between the planet and the universe.

- Year 7 investigated turbines and renewable energy through experiments and models.
- Year 8 studied Earth's layers and tectonic movements using hands-on projects.
- Year 9 learned about natural disasters, examining causes, impacts, and mitigation strategies.
- Year 10 focused on global systems like ocean currents and the carbon cycle, analysing climate impacts and sustainability.

Senior Biology

Year 11 Biology students studied reproduction and heredity, covering DNA, Mendelian genetics, and genetic variation in living organisms.

Senior Physics

Year 11 Physics students explored projectile motion through experiments and theoretical analysis, deepening their understanding of motion and its governing principles.

Until next year, CALC-U-LATOR!

Science and Mathematics Faculty

Performing Arts

Our Big Night Out concert, where students from all year groups showcase their musical talents, was held on Thursday the 12th of December. What a concert it was, with 24 acts performing over the event. Congratulations to all music performers, dancers and our very important student Tech Crew! The confidence, musical talents and teamwork was absolutely super! We are all eagerly anticipating the next milestone of our 20th BNO in 2025!

Shifting over to the Music curriculum for this term, here is a snapshot of the learning happening in our classrooms:

- Year 7 students listened to and analysed music, to then collaborate to learn and perform a song together.
- Year 8 focused on their performance skills, improving their technique on their individual instruments and also playing together in groups.
- Year 9 studied Jazz, learning about its history and techniques, and performing together in groups.
- Year 10 worked on solo and group performances, while also analysing their performance songs to deepen their understanding of performance through listening.
- Year 12 students completed their first HSC performance task, where they refined their individual pieces and also engaged in composition activities.
- Our Support Unit students also completed listening and performance activities, playing in drum circles together, engaging with music through singing and keeping the beat, and playing the piano.

Looking forward to welcoming all students back to the music classrooms in 2025!

Music Faculty



Support Unit

Recycling Initiative

Ms Blum's SU1 Class have been busy all year working on a recycling initiative within the school. Each week the class collects cans from specified bins within the school, kindly donated by Bunnings and the cans are then brought to our local return and earn scheme. To date, the team has raised a total of just over \$330.

Garden Cleanup

Ms Dwyer's SU2 and Ms Sear's SU5 have been working on giving the Support Unit Garden a facelift this term by weeding and maintaining the garden and making it a community space for the whole school to enjoy. Lots of plants have been potted including tomato plants, peas. We look forward to enjoying the fruits of our labour over the coming months!

Work Experience

Three SU1 students, Will K, Taina P and Michael M have been taking part in Work Experience every Friday this term at The Avenue in Botany. The students, accompanied by Ms Dwyer, have been completing tasks such as stock taking, order fulfilment, shopping activities as well as dog walking. This opportunity has provided us as a school with more tangible connections within the community and we look forward to working with The Avenue again in the future.

Cooking

Our Support Unit students have been working on the topic of Food Waste this term in Food Technology. Our practical classes have kindly been sponsored by OzHarvest supplying us with ingredients in collaboration with Woolworths. One menu item that was a huge hit amongst the students was our delicious mashed potatoes and hot chips made from the potato peel! Here are some photos of Ms Blum's SU1 and Ms Dwyer's SU2 class enjoying their food.

Travel Training Excursions

Over four Thursdays this term senior students from the Support Unit embarked on travel training adventures to some of Sydney's iconic locations: Manly, QVB, Luna Park, and Bondi. These trips were designed to build independence and confidence in using public transport, including ferries, buses, light rail, metro, and trains. From planning routes to managing Opal cards, this hands-on initiative provided invaluable life lessons while fostering confidence and independence. Participating students Laura V, Michael M, Thivangka B, and Fayaaz H, showed exemplary behaviour throughout the program, demonstrating maturity and respect for the community around them. Their enthusiasm and determination turned every trip into a memorable learning experience. Thank you to Ms Cruz, Ms Sears, Ms Dwyer and Ms Daisley, and community members who supported this initiative, helping create a meaningful and enriching experience for our students.

Community Access

Ms Sear's SU5 class participated in Community Access activities, exploring local businesses in the local area. The students have been getting to know the neighbourhood, visiting businesses and recently had the opportunity to visit a local shop, where they enjoyed hot chocolates while also learning about the value of money and calculating change.

Transition Days

This term we held three transition days for our new incoming Year 7 Support Unit students for 2025. We are delighted to announce that we are welcoming 8 new students to the Support Unit next year. Parents visited the school and received a tour of the school premises along with a presentation and the students experienced taster lessons in Yoga, Art, Gardening and Science. Thanks to all the teachers who were involved in making these Transition Days a success.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 on their Graduation last term: Armando F, Monty L, Hakim L, Max M, Bahram A, Michael E, Katie P and Michael M. Wishing you all every success in your future endeavours. Wishing all of our students and their families a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all again in 2025.

Support Unit Faculty



Term 4 saw our 7-10 English classes engaging with more texts and units of study from the new curriculum. Year 7 had the opportunity to experiment with language and poetic form, twisting fairy tales in the style of the *Revolting Rhymes* by Roald Dahl. Students had fun and achieved great success in their writing, as you can see in the extracts from two of our talented students:

This is the opening from Sohail's twisted version of *Little Red Riding Hood*.

"In the woods young Red walks along,
With her basket singing a song.
The trees whisper secrets soft and deep,
As shadows in the forest creep.
A wolf appears with eyes so bright,
Hiding behind the moon's pale white.
The wolf so sly plots with care,
To trick the girl unaware."

This is an extract from *Hansel and Gretel* with a twist by Ashton S.

"Gretel also tried to run away,
But the witch said maybe another day.
She flicked her wand and turned her to ice,
The witch said she looked like a splice.

The witch started rubbing her hands with glee,
Planning to eat Hansel with a piece of brie.
Gretel got out of the icy mess,
Ready to cause the witch massive stress."

As we approach the end of the year, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to the entire school community. We hope you enjoy a well-deserved restful break. During this time, we encourage you to dive into a good book - reading is a wonderful way to relax, reflect, and recharge.

English / EALD / Language / Drama Faculty

Friendly competitions

The Open Boys Touch Team competed in an NRL Gala Day at Maroubra Beach. All students had a great day, with some students playing for the first time! Special shoutouts to Lucas M, William P and James S who gave it their all, showing great sportsmanship and were great teammates.

The Open Boys Basketball Team competed in a friendly game this term against Matraville High School. Nicholas E was a key student behind the creation and development of this team. They had a great game, especially in the second half. The JJ boys put up a great fight, unfortunately going down to Matraville 52-27. Many thanks to superstar coach, Sian Batista De Mello.

Swim School

The Annual Swim School was a super successful event for Stage 4 students. Every student developed valuable swimming and life saving skills over the 3 days at Botany Aquatic Centre pool. Students have asked every day if they can do it again next year and noted that it was a memorable experience of their schooling years.



Sydney East Trials

This year volleyball has become one of our most popular and developed sports. This is attributed to our committed coach, Yovanys Espinosa. Seven Year 11 boys attended the Sydney East Volleyball Trials and gained some invaluable experience in the sport. They really enjoyed the experience and the knowledge they gained from other schools.

Wednesday Sport

Our school Wednesday Sport has continued all year round with a high level of positive participation. It is great to see some enthusiastic sporting action happening around our school!

Careers

We had another busy term in the careers space to finish off the year.

Year 10 had an incursion by a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable guest speaker to provide them with various tips and tricks to prepare them for interviews when they are job hunting. The students were engaged in the session and came away with numerous information and techniques to help them to do well in potential interviews in the future. Congratulations to Oriane R and Madison S for being the winners of the competition at the end of the session.

Year 10 had their Mock Interviews to support them to transition to the workforce or obtain a part-time job in the future. Each student had an interview with an industry representative and received valuable feedback from the experts. The industry representatives praised the students for their positivity. The students found the experience helpful to prepare them for actual interviews in the future and had a good time.



Year 10 Work Experience Week was also exciting this term. Year 10 students chose a work placement that interested them and spent a week with their supervisors to gain valuable insights and the day to day activities of their chosen work placement jobs. Some of the work placements were at Amazon, engineering companies, financial companies, vet clinics, local councils, local primary schools and so much more. This experience enabled students to step out of the classroom and into a real job to see what it is all about!

A special congratulations to Amy N in Year 10 who was accepted into a 4 - day STEM program for girls this term. This program provided insight into the technology industry and challenged gender stereotypes by showcasing women in STEM as role models with the aim to eventually overcome them. It was also beneficial as it provided an opportunity to build skills by solving a simulated business case through the application of technology. The program not only enhanced confidence and employability skills, but also empowered students with the skills they need to be ready for the workplace of the future.

A group of Year 10 and 12 students participated in the 2024 NSW Health Virtual Careers Fair this term. It consisted of numerous online sessions that focused on the diverse range of careers in the health industry. Our students participated in sessions on a variety of health professions such as dentistry, pathology, nursing, psychology, pharmacy and so much more. Our students came away with information on specific courses and some of the rewarding careers that the health sector can lead to.

The Year 10 Graphics class and a number of Year 12 students participated in an animation workshop at school where an industry expert teacher came to our school to run students through a design and programming workshop aimed at giving students hands-on experience with software used in the Game and Animation Industry. The students were able to use their creativity skills to create their own characters and gain more insights into the animation or gaming industry.

Due to our partnership with UNSW, we had an Engineering workshop run by Engineering students from UNSW to deliver sessions from various Engineering disciplines. University students are a great way of giving our students this exposure because they have recently been in their situation, they can provide advice or guidance to pursue a career in Engineering also because they are passionate about Engineering!

This year was filled with a myriad of activities in the world of careers and thank you to all the students who put their hands up to try out the activities that were offered at school. Have a safe and enjoyable break!

James Chen
Careers Adviser



Wellbeing

As we approach the end of Term 4, it's important to reflect on the various Wellbeing Programs and events that have supported our school community this year.

This term, we saw the graduation of our RAISE Mentoring program participants in year 8, a testament to the dedication and growth fostered through peer support. The RAGE program also wrapped up successfully, empowering students with important life skills and resilience. In addition, Art Therapy sessions allowed students to express themselves creatively and manage stress, while our collaboration with Centre 360 provided further support for students seeking mental health services.

Our community came together to celebrate two important events: International Men's Day and International Day for People with a Disability. These days provided an opportunity to raise awareness, encourage open dialogue, and promote inclusivity for all students.

As we head into the school holidays, it's essential to remember strategies to maintain mental wellbeing. Practising mindfulness, staying connected with friends and family, and engaging in activities you enjoy can make a huge difference. Regular exercise, a balanced routine, and adequate sleep are also key to staying mentally healthy. It's okay to take time for yourself and focus on relaxation during this break.

If you ever feel overwhelmed or need support during the school holidays or at any point, reach out to:

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636

Take care of yourselves, and remember, looking after your mental health is just as important as your physical health. Enjoy the holidays, recharge, and we look forward to seeing you back next year!

Georgina McInnes
Wellbeing Coordinator

Library

We've had an exciting Term 4 with some fantastic incursions held at the library, bringing in new experiences and learning opportunities for students. One of the big highlights this term is the Chess Tournament in Week 6. Students have been supported at lunch times with supervision in the library during Break 1 and Break 2 to practise their chess skills. Remember, the library is always open for you to challenge your peers and improve your strategy! If you are interested in registering, put your name down on the list which is located on the front desk in the library - sign up in 2025! It also has been pleasing to witness students enjoying playing board games, uno, silent reading, mindfulness activities and forming study groups during Break 1 and Break 2.

From bestsellers to hidden treasures, stop by the library to browse our new book stand, filled with exciting titles you won't want to miss. I'd also like to remind everyone that you are always welcome to request books for the library. If there's something you're interested in reading that we don't have yet, just let me know, and I'll do my best to order it for you. Did you know that reading just twenty minutes a day can improve academic performance? Feel free to come and see our friendly staff in the library and we will help you to find books you will love and be motivated to read. Thank you to all the students who've been so diligent about returning their books on time.

The library has also provided rich learning for both learning support literacy groups and enrichment programs for High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) students. A selection of year 7 and year 8 students were taught using tailored literacy programs aiming at improving reading comprehension, grammar, spelling and writing. Our HPGE students were given the opportunity to be part of the NRMA project, representing the school in the annual Metropolitan South and Metropolitan South & West Public Speaking Competition. A special congratulations to Jack S in Year 8 who represented the school in the Public Speaking Competition. Jack captivated the audience as he passionately outlined the importance of environmental conservation and individual responsibility towards sustainability. His thorough research, clear arguments, and confident delivery left a lasting impression on the judges.

A special thank you to all students for following the library rules: leaving your bags at the front on the shelves, using quiet voices, refraining from eating and drinking, and ensuring devices are plugged back in when you're finished using them. Your respectful behaviour helps make the library a wonderful space for everyone. A final thank you goes to our senior students – your hard work and the good study habits you're developing in preparation for the HSC are commendable. I have seen great dedication with students sharing their subjects with me so I can provide them with past HSC papers to complete during their study periods. Have a safe and restful break!

Erin Parker
Librarian

2024 has been another big one for the P&C, increasing collaboration with the school and local community! Some of the projects we have worked on, which benefit all students, are:

Peter Garrett presentation: The P&C arranged for the former politician, lawyer and singer Peter Garrett to attend school assembly. He gave an inspirational address to students, motivating them to apply themselves to find their passion.

Community Building Partnership Grant: P&C applied for and was awarded \$77,000! These funds are being used for the second stage of our landscaping project on the 7th of December. We are again working with students from UTS and Indigrow to bring this project to life.

Award-winning project: As well as being an outdoor learning space for students, adding shade and beautifying the school grounds, stage one of our landscaping project has been awarded numerous prizes, including state and national awards. It even appeared on the cover of Landscape Australia Magazine!

Fundraising: Our raffle at Term two's Big Night Out was our best ever, with over \$1,400 raised, allowing us to cover the cost of the school's annual insurance. The BBQ and raffle at the second BNO was a huge success. Thank you to all companies who donated prizes to support our students and school - please show your appreciation by supporting these companies in return.

Bayside Spring Fair: The P&C sponsored the school stall at the Bayside Spring Fair. The P&C, staff and some amazing student performers, attended on the day to spread the word about the wonderful things happening at J J Cahill Memorial High School to the local community.

The P&C is a small group of parents and carers who volunteer to help the school on projects such as the above. We meet on Wednesdays in Week 3 and Week 8 of each term. If you would like to sign up for to receive emails from the P&C, please email jjcahillpandc@gmail.com

J J Cahill P&C





Sydney Racquet Club



Learning Hub

We have had a great term in our Learning Hub class and are looking forward to a bigger presence in the school next year. Students in the Learning Hub have excelled and shown great ability in engaging in their learning.

All our students have shown amazing improvement in their ability to attend class on a regular basis and engage in and complete their class work. Jane V and I consider ourselves to be very lucky teachers as our students continue to dazzle with their project and class work. We thank our students and the school community for their support in getting our Learning Hub up and running these last two terms.

This term, the SRC welcomed the new school leaders of Year 12s and marks the beginning of a working team for 2025. The school leaders for 2025 are:

Captains: Tahlia H and Michael T

Vice Captain: Tiana L

SRC President: Malih O

Prefects: Sevimsu (Su) I, Tamati M, Cohen T, Raine V and Laura V

The leaders have shown great initiative and commitment to their new roles. Our new SRC President Malih O has met with Mr David to discuss and generate a plan of goals and visions that he would like to achieve during his tenure as SRC President, which then was shared with the team and motivated the SRC towards great goals for the year ahead.

We also had our 2025 SRC representative nominations this term. It was evident from the number of nominations that the student leadership culture in the school is growing, and the future leadership potential of the school will be excellent in the coming years. Our 2025 SRC representatives:

Year 8: Anna B, Line P, Ashton S, Irene T

Year 9: Riddhiman B, Tanesha M-W, Jack S, Tsolmon U

Year 10: Alex D, Ryan R, Steven S, Alya W

Year 11: Aylin K, Omar L, Amy N, Sienna S

The students were nominated by their year groups to represent their peers and I have confidence that our SRC representatives will do a great job advocating and assisting the school in continually improving for everyone.

I look forward to what 2025 brings with the SRC and student leadership team at JJCMHS.

Phil Nguyen

SRC & Student Leadership Coordinator

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Activities

As the year comes to a close our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have been involved in a number of programs and activities. Our students have had the opportunity to yarn, access mentoring and cultural knowledge through our 3 Bridges and Souths Cares programs on a regular basis.

Stage 4 girls attended SistaSpeak, a local schools female led initiative to encourage the voices of young Aboriginal women, was held in week 5 at La Perouse. They learnt to weave, created a vision canvas for 2025 and experienced bush tucker from the Indigigrow nursery. It was wonderful to see our students proudly stepping into leadership roles and making connections with other girls in the local area.

In week 6 our Aboriginal students, alongside our gardening group, were invited to attend Indigigrow alongside UTS Garden Architecture students who designed and created a new outdoor space at our school. Students had the opportunity to learn about native plants, architecture and provide input about how they effectively and functionally use space in the school grounds. This was followed by a walk along the coast providing the opportunity for students from University and school to interact and see the importance of plants in the landscape. Perhaps we will see some architects or horticulturalists in the future!

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to opportunities in the new year!

Jessica Welch
Aboriginal Programs Coordinator



Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



More information

Further Information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **131 450**. You will not be charged for this service.



PROGRAMS



**LOWER
PRIMARY**
(5-7 years)









**UPPER
PRIMARY**
(8-11 years)



SECONDARY
(12-17 years)

Sessions include:




-  A behind-the-scenes tour of our shelters.
-  Fun and interactive animal focused activities.
-  Get hands on making enrichment toys.
-  Meet-and-Greet sessions with shelter animals.
-  Learn how to be an animal advocate in your community.

 **Sydney Education and Adoption Centre**
201 Rookwood Road, Yagoona NSW 2199

SCAN ME



RSPCA NSW Education Team

 02 9782 4478  education@rspcansw.org.au
 <https://events.humanitix.com/host/rspca-nsw>

BELL TIMES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY A	FRIDAY B
ROLL CALL	8:50	8:50	8:50	8:50	8:50 YEAR MEETING	8:50
PERIOD 1	9-10	9-10	9-10	9-10	9:20-10:15	9-10
PERIOD 2	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10:15-11:10	10-11
BREAK 1	11-11:30	11-11:30	11-11:30	11-11:30	11:10-11:40	11-11:30
PERIOD 3	ASSEMBLY 11:30-11:40	11:30-12:30	11:30-12:30	11:30-12:30	11:40-12:35	11:30-12:30
PERIOD 4	11:40-12:40	12:30-1:30	12:30-1	12:30-1:30	12:35-1:30	12:30-1:30
BREAK 2	12:40-1:10	1:30-2	1-1:30	1:30-2	1:30-2	1:30-2
PERIOD 5	1:10-2:10	2-3	1:30-3	2-3	2-3	2-3