



FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 7, 9 March 2020

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Term 1 Week 7(B)	Week 7 Starting 9 March 2020
Monday 09/03/20	Year 11 & 12 Visual Arts Excursion-Art Express Year 11 & 12 Visual Arts – Body of Works Workshops: 3pm – 4:30pm Junior Band Rehearsals 3pm – 4:15pm 'Try Year 7 for a Day' – UPS, MKPS
Tuesday 10/03/20	Year 12 - Physics and Food Technology Assessment Tasks Year 11 - SLR to Evolution Laser Tag- P3/4 Year 10 – Music Assessment Task Year 9–Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM); Links to Learning Year 7 – Mathematics Assessment Task 'Try Year 7 for a Day' – FHPS, NHPS South Coast Regional Oz Tag South Coast Regional Swimming-Dapto Pool
Wednesday 11/03/20	Year 10 – Maths Assessment Task Year 9 – Top Blokes – P1 Year 7–Music & Mathematics Assessment Tasks
Thursday 12/03/20	Year 12 – Chemistry Assessment Task Year 11 – Ancient History and Community and Family Studies Assessment Task Year 10 – PASS to Evolution Laser Tag – P2/3; English Multimodal Assessment Task Year 9 – PASS to Ace Tennis P2/3; Commerce Excursion to Figtree Grove P2/3 Year 7-Music & Mathematics Assessment Tasks 'Try Year 7 for a Day' - LPPS Young Women's Forum – Year 9 & 10 – P5 Open Girls Basketball Knockout @ Beaton Park
Friday 13/03/19	Year 12 – Modern History and Food Technology Assessment Tasks Year 11 – PDHPE and Food Technology Assessment Task Year 10 – Spanish Assessment Task Year 8 – Clean up Australia Day Meeting Year 7 – Music Assessment Task 'Try Year 7 for a Day' – MtSTPS, FPS
Term 1 Week 8(A)	Week 8 Starting 16 March 2020
Monday 16/03/20	Year 12 – English Standard & Advanced Assessment Task Year 10 – PASS to Evolution Laser Tag-P4/5 Year 9 – Marine Studies to Unanderra Pool P4/5; PASS to Evolution Laser Tag – P4/5; Elective History Assessment Task Year 8 – Music Assessment Task – 8N, 8C Year 7 – Visual Arts Assessment Task Year 11 & 12 Visual Arts – Body of Works Workshops: 3pm – 4:30pm Junior Band Rehearsals 3pm – 4:15pm
Tuesday 17/03/20	Year 12 – English Advanced Excursion to Seymour Centre Sydney Year 11 – Business Studies Assessment Task Year 10 Marine Studies - Unanderra Pool-P4/5 Year 9 – Commerce to Figtree Grove P2/3; Information Software Technology and History Assessment Tasks; Links to Learning

Tuesday 17/03/20 Cont.	Year 8 – Music Assessment Task 8U; Language Incursion Year 7 – Visual Arts Assessment Task Netball NSW Cup Years 9 & 10 at Berkeley
Wednesday 18/03/20	Year 10 – Industrial Technology Building and Construction and Visual Arts Assessment Tasks Year 9 -Top Blokes P1; Visual Arts Assessment Task Year 8 – Visual Arts Assessment Task Year 7 – Visual Arts Assessment Task Open Boys Soccer at Kanahooka HS – 12:30pm P&C Meeting – Bistro 6:30pm
Thursday 19/03/20	Year 12 – Engineering Studies Assessment Task; Visual Arts Enrichment Writing Day @ Wollongong Art Gallery Year 11 – Food Technology and Music Assessment Tasks Year 10 – Visual Arts Assessment Task; 10Com3 Commerce Excursion to Wollongong Court Year 7 – Meet and Greet BBQ -3:15pm-4:30pm Young Women's Forum – Year 9 & 10 – P5
Friday 20/03/20	Year 12 – Spanish and Earth and Environmental Science Assessment Tasks Year 11 – Mathematics Advanced & Standard Assessment Tasks Year 10 – Commerce (10Com2) Excursion to Wollongong Court Year 9 – Music and Science Assessment Tasks Year 8 – Music Assessment Task - 8E & 8L TAS Excursion to Powerhouse Museum Year 7 – Visual Arts Assessment Task
Term 1 Week 9(B)	Week 9 Starting 23 March 2020
Monday 23/03/20	Year 12 – English Extension 1 and Business Studies Assessment Tasks Year 11 – English Studies Assessment Task Year 9 – Commerce Assessment Task Year 8 – 8I Music and Language Assessment Tasks Year 11 & 12 Visual Arts - Body of Works Workshops: 3pm – 4:30pm Junior Band Rehearsals 3pm – 4:15pm NAPLAN Practice Tests
Tuesday 24/03/20	Year 11 – SLR to Evolution Laser Tag – P3/4 Year 10 – Photography Assessment Task Year 9 – Mathematics Assessment Task Year 8 – Science, Language and Visual Arts Assessment Tasks NAPLAN Practice Tests Open Girls Soccer at Beaton Park – 1pm
Wednesday 25/03/20	Year 10 – Food Technology Assessment Task Year 9 – Top Blokes – P1 Year 8 – Language Assessment Task; HSIE Medieval Times Incursion- NAPLAN Practice Tests

Thursday 26/03/20	<p>Year 12 – Biology Assessment Task</p> <p>Year 10 – Food Technology Assessment Task</p> <p>PASS to Evolution Laser Tag – P2/3</p> <p>Year 9 – Child Studies Assessment Task ; PASS to Ace Tennis - P2/3</p> <p>Year 8 – Science and Language Assessment Tasks</p> <p>Young Women’s Forum – Year 9 & 10 – P5</p> <p>NAPLAN Practice Tests</p>
Friday 27/03/20	<p>Year 12 – Biology Assessment Task – P1</p> <p>Year 11 – English Advanced & Standard Assessment Task – P6</p> <p>Year 10 – Food Technology Assessment Task – P5; Child Studies Assessment Task – P5; Science Research Project – P3 & P6</p> <p>Year 9 – Spanish Assessment Task – P6</p> <p>Year 8 – Language Assessment Task – various periods</p> <p>NAPLAN Practice Tests</p> <p>South Coast Under 18’s Touch Football Trials</p>
<p>Year 12 Purple Year 11 Olive Year 10 Blue Year 9 Red Year 8 Green Year 7 Orange</p>	

Thoughts from the Principal

What a delight it is to walk around the school and see our Figtree teachers doing what they excel at (teaching of course) and our students learning and what’s more, enjoying it. Year 7 have settled in well to high school and our wonderful Year 12 are immersed in their HSC studies.

It might be raining on the Illawarra (at last) but it’s also raining events at Figtree High School. Let me share some of them with you.

Expo

Our Expo Evening invites our Figtree community to come and see our school. On Wednesday 4 March, the school was abuzz with excitement and interest.

Future students had a chance to meet our current teachers and students. As always, our students and staff and parent helpers made me very proud - their efforts showcasing what we really stand for as a school.

It was so wonderful to see so many of our future families getting stuck into the organised activities and having fun.

A massive thanks must go to both Ms Glasgow and Ms Harlor for putting together such a well organised event.



Zone Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday 3 March Mrs Markham, Mr Smart, Ms Clifford and Mr Healy had the pleasure of attending the Northern Illawarra Zone Swimming Carnival at Corrimal Pool with a group of our champion Figtree High School students.

Swimming is a tough sport which not only requires skill, but much stamina and determination. It was so pleasing that all of our students demonstrated these abilities, proudly representing Figtree High on the day. I commend all students who participated on their efforts and especially for challenging themselves in this extra-curricula opportunity.

A huge congratulations to:

- **Jessica Buffett** who broke the 100m 17 years butterfly record which was set in 1995
- **Regan Smith** who broke the 100m 16 years backstroke record; a record that stood for 45 years.



SRC Induction

Our Student Representative Council (SRC) induction was held on Thursday 27 February.

The induction involved a whole school assembly where students were recognised for their leadership and appointment to the SRC.

Students undertook a pledge in support of serving the school community and upholding its core values. As principal I take student viewpoints and requests very seriously and the SRC is the main group to present such views. The SRC provides opportunities for meaningful student participation and development of leadership skills and provides students with a voice in school decision making.

I would like to thank all the parents and families who attended the assembly to witness the investiture ceremony for our 2020 leaders. Special thanks to our SRC Coordinator Ms Tasker for her stellar organisation of this event.



Aboriginal Morning Tea

On Thursday morning our Aboriginal students and Aboriginal education team gathered for morning tea at the school.

As a team, staff and students discussed our plans and goals for 2020.

It was a chance for our Aboriginal community to build on existing friendships and strengthen their sense of belonging to Figtree High School. The word 'Illawarra' is obviously Aboriginal. Archaeological evidence indicates Aboriginal people were resident in Illawarra for at least 20,000 years prior to the arrival of Europeans. Our school sits on Dharawal land.

Homework Centre

Homework is a vital part of learning and developing time management skills. Students can expect to regularly have assigned work to be completed at home in each of their subjects.

To assist our students with their homework and to provide additional support with their study, preparation for assessments and completing assignments, the Homework Centre is available every Monday after school as well as Tuesday and Thursday mornings before school.

With the physical enhancements to the Library partially complete, we had a record number of students attend Homework Centre last Monday afternoon. It's really terrific to see so many students taking advantage of this great learning opportunity.

Year 7 2020 Meet and Greet Afternoon

All Parents/Carers as well as Year 7 students are invited to attend our Year 7 Meet and Greet Afternoon on Thursday 19 March from 3:15pm – 4:30pm.

This is a great opportunity for Year 7 students and their families to meet the Year 7 teachers and other staff in a friendly, relaxed environment and for us to welcome you to our great school.

This informal afternoon will include a BBQ, with soft drinks, tea and coffee available. Please complete and return the RSVP to the front office to help assist us in planning for catering.

An open door

We have no such thing as complaints at Figtree High School. We call them concerns. If you have a concern, just contact me or one of the three Deputy Principals and we will do our very best to resolve it.

Daniel Ovens
Principal

Expectation of the Week

WEEK 7: BE RESPECTFUL –
Corridors/Ramps/Lifts
Move quietly

WEEK 8: BE A LEARNER – *All Settings*
Ask for help

WEEK 9: BE SAFE - *Canteen*
Stand in line

Deputy Principal Report ***Years 7 and 10***

Year 7

Year 7 have had such a busy start to the year and I cannot believe that in five weeks they have been involved in so many activities. Year 7 camp was a highlight for me with 174 students attending. The behaviour of the students was exceptional. In the Wellbeing Report is a more detailed account of the Year 7 camp. I would personally like to thank the eight staff members who attended camp and left their families to ensure that Year 7 students had a great time – Mrs Markham, Ms Harris, Mrs Henderson, Ms Fox, Mr Solah, Mr Riolo, Mr Healey and Mr Braithwaite.

All Year 7 students were also involved in autism awareness training which involved each class gaining information from Raelee Kerr from Aspect. She presented to all Year 7 classes about what autism is and how you can assist a student. The feedback from Raelee and Ms Munro was extremely positive and I thank Ms Munro for organising this for our Year 7 students.

Last week SRC elections were held and seven wonderful students presented speeches to their year group. Congratulations to all these students. At the conclusion of this Year 7 were given pamphlets on Expect Respect and both Mr Hewitt and myself went through how we build positive relationships. Parents are encouraged to talk to your child in relation to what they need to do if they are feeling ongoing disrespect in a relationship and also the key staff students can seek assistance from, if needed.

Year 7 have also been involved in BestStart tests, NAPLAN practice writing tests, vaccinations and school photos. Students in Year 7 will be issued with an interim report on Monday 16 March which is a one page report demonstrating how they have transitioned into Year 7.

**SAVE THE DATE –
YEAR 7 MEET AND GREET.**

This will be held on Thursday 19 March from 3.15pm-4.30pm.

We encourage all Year 7 students and parents (and siblings) to attend the afternoon. It is a fantastic way of putting a face to a teacher's name.

Year 10

All Year 10 students have received their assessment guidelines booklet. It is great to see so many students being proactive and seeing their teachers if they will be absent for assessment tasks. The students have also been taken through this assessment booklet and they are encouraged to talk to their Year Advisers or Head Teachers if they would like further clarification.

Peer support leaders have really developed their leadership skills during the peer support activities. Every teacher I have spoken to has commended students on their leadership skills and the potential they are demonstrating.

Overall I have been extremely impressed with the dedication and commitment Year 10 are showing. The second half of this term sees an increase in assessment tasks and it is extremely important that students are using the assessment outlines to assist with preparing for tasks.

**Jemma Lawson
Deputy Principal**

Deputy Principal Report Years 8 and 12

Year 8

Term One has seen students engaged in their learning and completing their first set of assessments for the year. It is important that students are using a diary – either physical or electronically to plan. Work at home is made up of three components (A) work the teacher

asks them to complete after a lesson, (B) completing assessment tasks and (C) studying for examinations. It is important that if students are away from school, they speak to their teachers and peers to ensure they are up-to-date with the work. Attendance at school is an important part of keeping on top of the workload and assisting students to realise their potential.

Year 12

Year 12 are working hard completing assessment tasks. Students are reminded that if they are absent for the task due to illness they need to obtain a medical certificate and submit it with an Illness/Misadventure form. They need to be ready to either sit the task or submit the task on the day they return to school. It is the student's responsibility to obtain and return the documentation. If this is not completed the school is obliged to issue an N-warning to comply with NESA requirements. An N-warning letter can also be issued for non-completion of coursework not just assessment tasks. Ongoing engagement in learning is vital for success in the HSC.

On Friday 3 April 2020 the Mid-Course examinations will commence and run through to Thursday 9 April. These examinations are part of the schools formative assessment where students will receive important feedback on their progress to date. It also allows students to complete HSC style questions under examination conditions to better prepare them for the HSC. Year 12 students in 2019 were surveyed about the Mid-Course examinations and overwhelming said they were valuable in preparing for the HSC.

Many students will have more than one examination on any of the given days and need to be prepared by developing their summaries to address each of their subject's syllabi. During the examination period students only need to attend for their examinations but they should be at the auditorium at least 15 minutes before the examination commences. They will be required to stay in the room until the end of the examination. Students need to be in full school uniform and cannot take a mobile phone into the exam room. Possession of a mobile phone in the exam room (whether it is on or not) will result in a zero mark awarded. The same rule applies for smart watches/devices such as a fitbit or apple watch.

This is the same rule that applies for the HSC examinations and the NESAs supervisors apply this. We implement this rule to ensure that students are prepared for the HSC rules. If a student wears a watch to an examination it needs to be placed on the corner of the desk. The auditorium has an electronic clock to ensure students can plan their time. We wish Year 12 students the best of luck in preparing for these examinations.

Trish Morgan
Deputy Principal

Deputy Principal Report

Years 9 and 11

Year 9

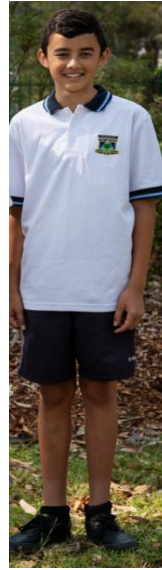
Year 9 have had a great start to the term and we currently have 11 students with 100% attendance, this means that they have been at school on time every day and have not missed a single minute of learning time. There are 57 students with an attendance rate of 95% or higher. This is a great start for the year. I congratulate these students and hope they can maintain this outstanding commitment to their learning this term.

A reminder that Lowes, Figtree Grove is the ONLY supplier of the Figtree High School Uniform. A number of students are beginning to out-grow their junior uniform and need to ensure that they have enough school uniform items to be able to wear school uniform every day. The new uniform items are in stock at LOWES.

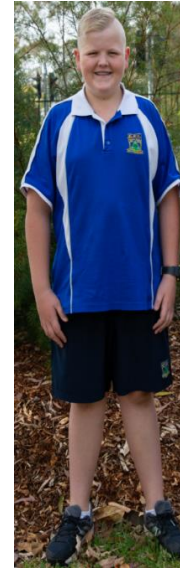
While some girls may still have their previous school uniform navy shorts from Year 7 and 8, parents are reminded that the minimum length of shorts is mid-thigh length, which means that shorts need to be longer than the finger tips when student's hands are placed by their sides.

The school sports shorts can only be worn to school on Wednesdays. On days when students have PE or PASS

practical lessons, students need to bring their PE shorts and shirt to school in their bag and wear their school uniform shorts to school.



School Shorts
F.H.S on left leg



Sports Shorts
School Crest on left leg

Year 11

In Week 4, I met with all Year 11 students to distribute the Year 11 2020 Assessment Procedures and Schedules Booklet. This booklet contains information about assessment tasks for courses. I discussed in detail the requirements for assessment task submission, illness/misadventure processes and the consequences if students do not meet course requirements. This booklet can be accessed on the Figtree High School website by clicking [here](#). At the back of this booklet is an assessment planner for each term, and students were encouraged to spend time planning out their assessment tasks so that they are prepared for some weeks where they have a number of assessment tasks due for submission.

Year 11 students have commenced their Year 11 Assessment Tasks, with most students having one or more assessment tasks every week until the end of this term. Students are reminded that the Homework Centre is available on Monday afternoons from 3:00pm – 4:00pm and Morning Assistance is available from 7:45am – 8:30am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the library.

Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal

Behaviour Expectations: Respect, Safety and Learning

Respect

Over the past week we have focused on respect in the toilet facilities. Our toilets are used by a number of students and cleaned at the end of the school day. As such, we want students to treat the facilities with respect, in the same way they do in their own home. We have placed posters into our toilet facilities to remind students about using the toilets respectfully, including:

- Flushing the toilet or urinal after use
- Placing any rubbish in the garbage bin
- Using the soap provided for hand washing
- Using toilet roll and soap dispensers as intended

We have also reminded students about the behaviours that are not respectful in our toilet facility, and look forward to improved cleanliness in our toilet facilities in coming weeks as students are more respectful – especially with flushing the toilet.

Safety

We have included some information from the Department of Education about the Novel Coronavirus on page 16 of this newsletter. Given the increased media attention about the spread of illnesses such as respiratory infections, we have been promoting hand washing as the best method for safe hand hygiene at school. This is very important after using the toilet and before eating or drinking.

Soap is available in our school toilets and we encourage students to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day, to help with hand hygiene.

To manage the spread of infections, it is important that students who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until the symptoms resolve. The common signs of infection are a fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, vomiting, and diarrhoea.

Road rules are extremely important to follow, and as adults we are fully aware of these. It has been brought to our attention that there are a number of students who are riding their bikes in an unsafe manner. This includes not wearing a helmet but also failing to follow road rules.

Helmets - Wearing a helmet is the law. In NSW there are no exceptions. Helmets can reduce head injury by 74%. The helmet that fits best, looks good and meets the Australian safety standards is the best one to get.

Road rules – cyclists need to abide by the same road rules that drivers need to follow. This includes riding on the left hand side of the road, indicating if they are turning and stopping at intersections and traffic lights. We want all students to remain safe to and from school.

Learning

You will notice on the first two pages of this newsletter that all year groups have assessment tasks scheduled in the next 3 weeks. Regular attendance at school will maximise learning and help students to achieve to their potential.

Students are required to attend school every day that school is open. Our goal this year is for all students to have an attendance rate of 90% or higher. We use an SMS messaging system to inform parents/carers if their child has been marked absent from school without an explanation. Parents/carers can respond to this SMS to explain the reason for their child's absence. These SMS messages are also sent for unexplained late arrivals.

Partial absences (late arrival or early leave) impact on student attendance, and reduce the available learning time. We report on student attendance, including partial absences, in our Semester 1 and 2 academic reports.

There have been an increasing number of early leave requests this term. Parents are reminded that appointments should be made outside of school time wherever possible, and where this is unavoidable, the time a student misses from school should be minimised.

Whole Day Absences

He/She is only missing just...	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of schooling that's...	Which means the best your child can perform is...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years	Equal to finishing Year 5

Every Minute Counts

He/She is only missing just...	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of schooling, that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
½ an hour per day	½ a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years
¾ an hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years

If a student needs to leave school early they should;

- bring a parental note stating why and when the student is required to leave school
- show the note to the Deputy Principal in charge of their year group and then take this note to the front office before 8.38am to receive an Early Leavers Pass
- show their classroom teacher the Early Leavers Pass when leaving class.

STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM A DEPUTY PRINCIPAL.

Learning Support Faculty Report

The Learning Support Faculty comprises of our Learning and Support Teachers (LaSTs) Ms Markham and Ms Clifford, our Careers Advisor Mr Sargent-Wilson, the Librarian Mrs Glasgow (Ms Crouch currently on maternity leave), our EALD teacher Mrs Al Hindi, our Autism teacher Ms Monro, our Physical Disability teacher Ms Ford and our School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs) Mrs Murray, Mrs Hall, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Kurt, Ms Cox and Mr Parr. This faculty is supervised by Mrs Glasgow who is the Head Teacher Teaching & Learning at Figtree High School.

The Learning Support staff have an important role in the school in terms of supporting students with specific learning and vocational needs through classroom assistance and the delivery of specialised programs.

Our staff also assist in the development of transition and learning plans and support teachers from all curriculum areas in the development and delivery of quality differentiated programs, assessments and transition pathways. There is always so much happening that it is difficult to cover all services. Here are some highlights:

Our New Library

It is with great excitement that we share with you the refurbishment of our library into a contemporary and flexible learning centre. This has only been possible through the dedication and hard work of Ms Williamson (HT TAS) and the FHS Dynamic Learning Team. A lot of research went into how we can best provide a quality learning centre for students at the school and all the work appears to have been of great benefit, with students embracing the library and engaging in the furniture to accommodate their learning and study needs.



We have currently added a large presentation module to seat a class in front of our interactive presentation television, three study booths, new tables and chairs along with a range of colorful ottomans. Two separate reading nooks with comfortable lounge chairs gives students a place to engage with the books on offer. We have a movable wall and three mini interactive whiteboards being installed for each study booth over the next holiday break. With additional electrical work being done, we will have two computer desktop sections of six devices each. This library has supported laptops but only with the numbers to compliment the school BYOD policy. We encourage students to have their own device and if financially this is difficult the school does have devices to hire at a low cost.

The students are engaging in the new library with increased numbers of students using the different areas for reading, studying and group work.

We are looking forward to the completion of work and having a library where staff and students are proud to be learning together.

Vanessa Glasgow
Relieving Librarian
Head Teacher Teaching and Learning

SUPPORT CLASSES

Physical Disabilities Unit (PDU)

A big thankyou to THE GREATER BANK at Figtree Grove for donating \$500 to the PDU. We were lucky enough to be nominated by one of the parents Ms Julie Bates and successful in attaining one of their Community Grants. We are considering earmarking the money to go towards replacing our old adjustable tables in the classroom with new, lightweight ones on wheels.

Our students **Maddy Davies**, **Clara Bates** and **Blake Shepherd** are busy dealing with the rigour and challenges of Senior School. Blake is completing his final year and we wish him every success with his studies. Maddy (Yr11) is undertaking an EVET course at iTEC in Business Services which should provide her with valuable skills to transition into post school life. Clara (Yr11) is enjoying her research-based subjects and is rising to the academic challenges that these courses entail. **Hayden Veitch** is completing his ROSA as a Year

10 student and the provision of a new laptop should be of great benefit as we introduce our new BYOD policy. Hopefully 2020 is a great year for all our students as they begin their transition into adulthood.

Ellen Foord
Physical Disabilities Teacher

Autism

We have three new Year 7 students who have been settling in well to the High School setting. Students from the Autism class have been enjoying working alongside their peers in classes. They particularly enjoy their practical subjects.



Libby Monro
Autism Teacher

Specialised Literacy Program: MacqLit

Learning Support continues to run the successful MacqLit reading program at Figtree High School. This explicit and systematic small group reading program was developed by Macquarie University and focuses on the five pillars of reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension, with the main focus on learning and applying the alphabetic code.

The students who have previously completed the program have demonstrated great gains in their reading and spelling skills and have reported that participation in the program has increased their self-confidence and reading ability, with them now being happy to read in class and independently at home. We wish our new (and continuing) MacqLit reading groups the same success and positive outcomes!



Judy Markham
Learning and Support Teacher

Morning Assistance

This is the second year that Learning Support have opened the library for the Morning Homework Club. This program operates every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:45am. Students are provided with a juice popper and muesli bar to help kick start their day.

All students are welcome to attend these sessions whereby they can receive support and assistance in all subject areas with:

- organisation
- assessments
- classwork and
- study skills

It is fabulous to work with students who have taken the opportunity to engage in their learning outside normal school hours. It is also a time where students who ordinarily would not work together assist and encourage each other with various tasks. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Sue Clifford
Learning and Support Teacher

CAREERS

Year 12 Discovery Day 2020 - University of Wollongong

Many of our Figtree High Year 12 students visited the University of Wollongong early in the term for Discovery Day. Students had the chance to hear from current UOW students, as well as participate in lectures and tutorials of their choice. For many it confirmed their desire to pursue tertiary studies, whilst others have sussed up the plan that UOW is their University of choice.



Year 11 and 12 TAFE

We have over 50 Year 11 and 12 students who are studying a TAFE course as part of their senior studies this year. Students are undertaking a whole range of courses, at the four different TAFE campuses throughout the Illawarra. Many of the students have reported back to me about how they are enjoying the experience and the chance to complete specialised training. For some of our Year 11 students studying a 4unit in 1 year course, they will be sitting the HSC examination this year.

Some of the courses are very interesting, we have students completing Animal Studies, Automotive Technology, Web Design, Construction, Beauty, Fitness, Early Childhood Education, Electro technology, Nursing and Business Services.

Year 12 – University Preparation Program (UPP) – University of Wollongong

The UPP has undergone a full review and revamp for 2020, and UOW are excited to be offering students this refreshed opportunity for their final year of high school. Detailed information can also be found at <https://www.uow.edu.au/engage/outreach-pathways/year-12/year-12-upp/>

Key Changes for 2020

- A guaranteed Early Admission interview or conditional offer on successful completion of the program
- 15 week program (reduced from 20 weeks) that will run weekly for all of Term 2 and Weeks 1 – 5 of Term 3
- Refreshed skills development content and delivery model focusing on 21st Century employability skills and skills for further learning
- Mentor led peer assisted learning streams that will allow students to access mentoring from multiple mentors across a range of subject areas.

UPP 2020 Dates and Times

Available sessions days and times for 2020 are:

- Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00pm UOW Wollongong
- Wednesday 4:00 – 5:30pm UOW Wollongong
- Thursday 1:30 – 3:00pm UOW Wollongong
- Thursday 3:45 – 5:15pm Five Islands Secondary College

Applying to UPP

All students who meet program criteria are encouraged to apply to the program by the closing date Friday 27 March 2020 (this is an extension on the 22 March date noted on the brochure).

Please note that due to the program commencing on April 28 2020 and the need to enrol students prior to this, we will not be able to offer application extensions beyond the closing date. Students will be required to upload a completed and signed Grade Verification Template of their Year 11 results (ROSA or end of year report is fine) along with proof of identity documentation with their application, and we will be unable to assess applications or enrol students without this documentation.

Adam Sargent-Wilson
Careers Advisor

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE OR DIALECT (EALD)

Young Women's Forum

The Young Women's Forum runs every Thursday during Period 5 for selected students in Years 9 and 10. The forum is led by community workers from Wollongong Women's Information Service and is run at four other local High Schools. The Young Women's Forum offers young women from diverse backgrounds a safe, supportive and creative environment in which to share themes and topics that are important to them. The girls will access information relevant to their needs, develop their strengths, skills and confidence as young women, as well as the opportunity to meet and share their themes and experiences with a broader network of younger and older women.

Our Journeys Our Stories, Celebrating International Women's Day

Young Women's Forum students attended an excursion to celebrate International Women's Day on Friday 6 March at the Wollongong Town Hall. Students had the opportunity to meet and share themes and experiences with a broad network of women who represent a wide variety of women from diverse backgrounds.



Links2Learning

Congratulations to **Amar Aoda, Shaza Al Hariri, Pray Reh, Sor Reh, Ronnie Aukuso Taelase, Rosie Savvides, Nuzar Ree, Noah Baroudi, Lin Ma** and **Ella Bellerby** for being selected to participate in Links2Learning program in 2020.

The Links to Learning program aims to provide students with additional assistance, opportunity and support to remain and excel in education and training, overcoming any barriers they may face. The program focuses on communication skills, developing self-esteem, language and living skills, career and educational pathways through a range of highly sought-after courses and opportunities for personal growth.

Some of the major activities include:

- The prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award including two overnight trips
- First Aid Skills
- Retail program
- National Parks and Wildlife Project
- PEP (Pre-Employment Program)

Links to Learning will begin on the Tuesday 10 March 2020 and will continue every Tuesday after that until the end of the year.

Salma Alhindi
EALD Teacher

Afternoon Homework Centre

Figtree High School operates an afternoon Homework Centre every Monday in the library from 3:00pm – 4:00pm. This centre is successfully managed by Mr Dodhy our HT Mathematics and is supported by several

teachers from different curriculum areas each week. In 2020, our students have truly embraced this learning opportunity with attendance numbers increasing. Last week 21 students took the opportunity to receive teacher support and mentoring at the Homework Centre.



Vanessa Glasgow
Head Teacher Learning and Support

ARCO REPORT

Welcome all to 2020, my name is Jessica Williams. I am an English teacher at Figtree High School and have been the nominated ARCO for a number of years. ARCO stands for, Anti-Racism Contact Officer. All schools are required to have a trained Anti-Racism Contact Officer (ARCO). This officer assists parents, staff and students who have complaints regarding racism and facilitates the complaints handling process. The ARCO role has three major aspects, supporting individuals during the

complaints process, promoting education and awareness around racism and monitoring to ensure all complaints are recorded and accurate data is collected.

Whilst the role of the ARCO focuses specifically on racism, it is important to highlight that public schools reflect our community. They are diverse and prepare students for the real world beyond a classroom. Students of all races, religions, abilities, genders and sexual identity are valued. We uphold and promote diversity and open-mindedness and strive to ensure our school is a safe place where all students feel connected and respected.

Figtree High School is a place of belonging for all and we look forward to a positive year ahead in 2020.

Jessica Williams
ARCO Figtree High School

BYOD BOOTCAMP 2020

All students from Years 7-10 recently participated in a BYOD Bootcamp during the first 2 weeks of Term 1, 2020. We congratulate all students who engaged in the process, which will help prepare them for daily use of technology in the classroom. Sessions that students engaged in were: School/faculty expectations, a Network Access Workshop, Appropriate Usage of Technology & Cyber Safety online modules.

We hope to see more widespread use of technology in the classroom from both staff and students, with students engaging in a safe manner.

The school is working hard to prepare students for their futures beyond High School.



Matt Walsh, Doug Boyton and the BYOD Team

YEAR 7 CAMP

This year from 12 - 14 February, Year 7 camp was held at Teen Ranch in Cobbity. The students had a wonderful time and were able to participate in abseiling/rock climbing, archery, bush skills, orienteering, giant swing, pool activities and initiative games. Thank you to the teachers Mrs Henderson, Ms Harris, Ms Fox, Mrs Markham, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Solah, Mr Riolo and Mr Healy who accompanied the students on camp. It was also nice to have a visit from Ms Lawson and Mr Ovens.

This is what two students, Anastasia and Ellie, had to say about camp.

“As soon as we got to the camp grounds our eyes were drawn to the giant swing and abseiling. All the activities we did were really enjoyable like orienteering and bush skills. The food was average but the foods that stood out the most were the chocolate chip cookies and the butter cake. Overall the experiences at Teen Ranch is something we will remember for the rest of our lives. We thank the teachers and the Teen Ranch workers for our experience”.





SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our School Swimming Carnival was held on the 7 February 2020. This year the weather was a little wet, however, all students that attended had a great day. We had two records broken on the day.

Regan Smith broke the 50m backstroke with a time of 31.50 – the old record was 33.43 and **Jessica Buffett** broke the 50m butterfly with a time of 30.44 the old record was 30.65. The winning house on the day was Gurri (Red House).

Our Age Champions for 2020 are:

12 Years	Kirsten Owen Joshua Bond
13 Years	Abbey Morgan Robert Baker
14 Years	Mia Parker Jayden Hanlon
15 Years	Madison Newman Kaylen Craft
16 Years	Audrey Napper Regan Smith
17+ Years	Jessica Buffett Logan Mathie

The Zone Carnival was held at Corrimal Pool on Tuesday 3 March. We congratulate our school team for their efforts and will provide more details in the next newsletter about individual and team results from the carnival.

Tanya Markham
Head Teacher Wellbeing
Sports Coordinator

MERIT EXCURSION - EASTER SHOW

A special reward day excursion has been organised to the Royal Easter Show at the Sydney Showground – Homebush on the 9 April 2020. Students who have reached Silver level in the school's merit system, as well as students who have been awarded a Bronze Certificate in 2019 or 2020 are eligible to attend. Students' recent behaviour will also be taken into account. Numbers will be limited so attendance will be based on a first in - first pay process. Payment receipt and permission notes need to be given to Mrs Markham (in the PDHPE staffroom) as soon as possible, to reserve your place.

The cost of this excursion is \$40.00.



YAM PROGRAM FOR YEAR 9

In Weeks 5, 6 and 7 of Term 1, Year 9 students are involved in the YAM program. The Department of Education has been working with the Black Dog Institute to run a school-based peer support and mental health literacy program called Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM).

YAM is a program aimed at addressing the mental health needs of young people.

YAM involves discussion and role play. It aims to get young people involved and talking about mental health. By doing this young people will learn problem solving skills and gain knowledge about mental health.

Where can I find more information about YAM?

<http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/research/lifespan/lifespan-strategies-andcomponents/strategy-5>

TOP BLOKES FOUNDATION



During Semester 1 this year we are running the Top Blokes Program. There are 14 students who are involved in a series of workshops. The vision of the Top Blokes Foundation is to have more young males lead healthy and safe lives and to challenge and nurture young males to be their best selves. The goals of the foundation are to:

1. To raise awareness about male issues and strategies that can be applied to improve the development of young male's health and well-being;
2. To inspire young males to reach their full potential through peer-inspired environments,

increasing their social inclusion and healthy peer relationships;

3. To ensure Australian young men have access to personal development and volunteer opportunities;
4. To increase the positive representations of young men within the community and media.

YOUTH FRONTIERS

The Youth Frontiers program is once again running at our school. This program runs for six months, with young people receiving a minimum of 35 hours mentoring, including at least 10 hours of one-on-one mentoring. The program will give mentees an opportunity to build life skills and self-confidence by working collaboratively with their mentors to undertake a community project that makes a positive difference in their local community.

The purpose of Youth Frontiers is to connect young people with volunteer mentors. Through this program they develop a fun and supportive relationship while focusing on a community engagement activity. We look forward to seeing what projects our students in Years 9 and 10 come up with.



Updated information for parents and carers about COVID-19 formerly referred to as Novel Coronavirus (Novel Coronavirus) 6 March 2020

Dear parent or caregiver,

The NSW Department of Education is working closely with the NSW Ministry of Health in response to the unfolding international COVID-19 (formerly referred to as Novel Coronavirus) situation.

Further travel restrictions

Effective of 5 March 2020, the Federal Government has issued updated advice on travel restrictions on foreign nationals (excluding permanent residents of Australia) coming to Australia from the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

Current advice from the NSW Government for parents and affected staff is:

- Any student or staff member who has left, or transited through mainland China since 1 February, Iran since 1 March or the Republic of Korea (South Korea) since 5 March, is excluded from child care services, school or work for 14 days from the date they left mainland China, Iran or the Republic of Korea (South Korea).
- Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded until they are medically cleared to return.
- Close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.

Students and staff who have returned to Australia and have shown no symptoms during the 14-day self-isolation period are able to return to child care services, school or work.

The NSW Ministry of Health has processes to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia. Advice about not attending school would be provided to these close contacts by the NSW Ministry of Health.

Consistent with current guidelines, students who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. In accordance with the NSW Department of Education's current practice, if any student becomes unwell, the school will implement infection control guidelines and follow the advice provided by the NSW Ministry of Health as appropriate.

Maintaining good hygiene standards is an important way to reduce the risk of acquiring and spreading respiratory infections. Parents and caregivers are asked to promote good hygiene, including handwashing with soap as handwashing is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

The NSW Ministry of Health has [advice and resources about COVID-19 in English, Chinese and other languages](#)

The NSW Department of Education will continue monitoring the COVID-19 situation and provide parents and caregivers with updated information about the virus.

Telephone Interpreter Service

If you need further information please call your school principal. If you need an interpreter to assist you with your enquiry please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. This service will be free of charge to you.

HOMWORK CENTRE!

NEED HELP?

**with assignments, assessment tasks,
homework, getting organised or
simply catching up on work**



**MONDAYS
(3PM TO 4PM)**

**TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
(7:45AM TO 8:30AM)**

in the School Library

BYOD

Bring Your Own Device



BYOD news

@ FIGTREE HS

REMINDER TO PARENTS 7-10

- BYOD has been rolled out at Figtree HS with the new procedure available on the school website
- Students are encouraged to bring a device to school
- There are alternative options to source a device through the school's loan arrangement and faculty laptops (Students can see Mr Walsh HT Administration for more information)
- We ask that parents return the "BYOD Device" form distributed at the BYOD Bootcamp - so we can collate information and pass that on to teachers!

Give us feedback & win!

As of Week 6: There will be a rewards box stationed at the front office - student reception. Please tell us about one positive experience students have had with technology/BYOD in a lesson (entry forms at front office). We will draw out 2 random students each term and you could win a technology prize!

W: <https://figtree-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>



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LEARNSAFE: A free 2 hour workshop for parents and supervisors of learner drivers.

Tuesday 10 March 2020, 6pm-8pm

Wollongong City Council

We're holding a free two hour workshop for parents and supervisors of learner drivers.

Get practical advice about:

- Supervising learner drivers
- Completing the Learner Driver Log Book
- Learner and Provisional licence laws
- How to encourage safe driving behaviours

Accompanied Learner Drivers are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments are provided.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: For more info or to book in, contact Wollongong City Council's Road Safety Officer on (02) 4227 7111 or rso@wollongong.nsw.gov.au.

Community Moonlight Movies

FREE



THE LEGO MOVIE

Saturday 14 March
Roy Johanson Park, Figtree

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT STARTS 6PM
MOVIE SCREENS AT 7.30PM

FOOD & DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE AT THE PARK



No Smoking



No Alcohol



No Glass



No Pets



Headphones and / or hearing loops are available for use for people with hearing impairments and can be booked via the Events Team on 4227 7111.

CARESOUTH IS THE
MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE
LEGO MOVIE SCREENING



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For further information visit:

www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/events



City of Wollongong



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Boys & Girls 5-17yrs
ALL SHAPES & SIZES

U6 & U7 Touch
NOT TACKLE

Family friendly
environment

New Players Welcome – Boys and Girls ages 5-17

Every Wednesday from 12th February 5pm – Registration evenings
Sunday 1st March 11am-2.30pm – Registration and Rugby Open Day

Enquiries email; wvrc.juniors@gmail.com

ALL JUNIOR REGISTRATION FEES ARE FREE

Vikings Oval cnr Swan and Corrimal Streets, Wollongong