



ASHFIELD BOYS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 2 WEEK 3 2024

The next three weeks for your diary

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20-24 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QTR Round 1 - ABHS presenting • Year 11 Minimum Standards P1-4 Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 Mentoring Session P7&8 • Year 11 Advanced English - Sydney Writers Festival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate TheatreSports Semi-Final 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Ngapa William Concert • QTR Round 2 at CGHS • Knockout Football • Senior TheatreSports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 12 Biennale of Sydney Years 11&12
27-31 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Concert - Choir Performances - Town Hall • Digital Thumbprint 9C/9W - P3&4 9M/9G - P5&6 9S - P7&8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Concert - Choir Performances - Town Hall • Digital Thumbprint 10S/10D - P3&4 10T/10M/10P - P7&8 • QTR Round 3 at ABHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 12 Standard English in class Assessment - P1&2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Singers Workshop - Vocal Group Years 11 & Year 9 Music - 9am - 12pm • Digital Thumbprint 8C/8V - P1&2 8H - P3&4 8N/8A - P6&7 • Year 10 Geography Excursion - Cronulla • Year 12 Kickstart Physics - all day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11 Visual Arts Task - P5&6 Hall • Digital Thumbprint 7N/7M - P1&2 7B - P3&4 7S - P5&6 7T - P7&8
03-07 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11 PDHPE Assessment Calic - P1&2 Tyler - P7&8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 English Assessment P3&4 • QTR Round 4 at CGHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbour Aid Shopping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 7-10 Parent/Teacher Night 2:40-7:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 CGHS visit • Year 11 Ancient History - Tutankhamun Assessment Durand - P1&2 Jakubowski - P7&8 • Year 12 Modern History Assessment Durand - P1&2 Phillips - P3&4 Durand MH4 - P7&8 • Year 12 Drama Assessment P5&6



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Daily Telegraph Article

I am not sure if you saw the article that is reproduced on the next page. It is a wonderful article showcasing the work of Alex Whitting. There is also a video which accompanies the feature and both are the first instalment of a series that Joe Hildebrand is doing about exceptional teachers. On the day that Joe visited, I did tell him that he could do the entire series about exceptional teachers simply by visiting a range of classrooms across the school.

P&C Staff Thanks

Thanks to the P&C, especially the President Nicola, who popped in at recess today with lovely cupcakes for the staff to express their appreciation for all that they do. It was a very thoughtful and touching gesture that is very much appreciated by the boys' teachers. At a time when many people in our profession across the country are not feeling particularly appreciated or valued, it is just wonderful to know that this is certainly not the case in our village.

Dwayne Hopwood
Principal



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Australia's Best Teachers: Ashfield Boys High School's Alex Whitting turns students' lives around

Alex Whitting is a teacher at an ordinary school achieving extraordinary results. And her students have revealed why.



[Joe Hildebrand](#)

The first thing you need to know about Alex Whitting is that she doesn't think you should know anything about her.

For weeks her principal and even the Education Department had to literally beg her to let us showcase what she did over the course of just one day.

She'd been identified as a perfect candidate — an ordinary teacher at an ordinary school achieving extraordinary results.

Her principal gushed: "Her bottom result in HSC Advanced English last year was Band 5 (the second highest). We are not a selective school! Alex is a force of nature and an inspiration."

But this force of nature wanted no part of it. She didn't want the publicity or recognition — she just wanted to teach.

And she didn't want anyone to think she was special or to detract from her colleagues.

And she is also incredibly self-effacing and shy — except in the classroom, where she shines.

All of this was true. The problem for Ms Whitting was that it only made her even more perfect.

When we meet one Friday morning at Ashfield Boys High School she has already been working for hours and the school day has barely begun.

Principal Dwayne Hopwood is supposed to be on medical leave but has come in especially to support her — and to lovingly frogmarch her to her fate. Then the crying starts.

Ms Whitting worked as a writer before coming to teaching 14 years ago. She has taught English at Ashfield for about a decade.





English schoolteacher Alex Whitting at Ashfield Boys High School. Alex photographed with journalist Joe Hildebrand. Picture: Julian Andrews

I ask her why she became a teacher and she is immediately choking back tears. “I think of my little Year 7s,” she says.

“They’ve got lots of little learning challenges and you just think people might give up on them.”

Not her. Not here.

“Everyone needs that opportunity,” she says.

“Everyone needs to have high expectations for them and champions for them. And our school really calls us to do that.”



Alex Whitting at Ashfield Boys High School during her Year 11 English Extension Class. Picture: Julian Andrews

They are literally Great Expectations. As we find in her first class these Year 7s are studying Dickens, Shakespeare, Chaucer and Shelley.

“She just explains stuff really nice,” says 12-year-old Ali Ozel.

“She understands where you’re at — and she knows how to write!”

After lunch and another round of class prep we head to Year 11 English. It’s here I find out the crying is contagious.

I ask one student what makes a good teacher.

“What makes a good teacher is really Ms Whitting,” says Mahmoud Zraika, a 16-year-old from Silverwater.

Mahmoud has had her since Year 7. He is immediately emotional.

“When I first came to the school I could barely put two words together,” he says.

“I’m being very serious. I hated English. I hated reading. But there was something about Ms Whitting. She made me want to push myself.

“If I didn’t have Ms Whitting things could have turned out differently. You get that from every kid.”

If that’s an ordinary teacher there must be a lot of extraordinary ones out there.



WHITE CARD TRAINING



Last Thursday students from Years 10, 11 and 12 completed the White Card course. The White Card course is a requirement to work in the Construction Industry. Students learnt the basics of Work Health and Safety which is required prior to commencing work tasks within any of the building sectors. All students

achieved 100% and demonstrated their personal awareness of the Work Health & Safety legislative requirements. They were ecstatic when they received their certificates upon completion.

Ms Apostolopoulos - Careers Adviser



THEATRESPORTS SENIORS

CONGRATULATIONS to our Senior Theatre Sports Team on their amazing heat, held at St Patricks College on Monday night. The boys were in great form and their dedication to the craft of theatre improvisation was on show for everyone to witness! They have been working so very hard for this competition, working together during holidays and staying back every Friday after school to rehearse. As a result, they are a tight group that can collaborate with incredible skills and speed, to create an amazing performance.

Theatre sports encourages skills such as communication, collaboration, self-confidence, self-esteem, self-expression, interpersonal skills and finally, imagination. It is a process that allows the student to experience, through play, compromise, and success.

Our competition was strong, with students from many different schooling environments, from private, selective, and public education.

I am proud to announce that our boys were brilliant and came **FIRST** in their heat. We are now through to the next round, again being held at St Patricks College, Strathfield.

It would be lovely if we could have some more supporters for the boys and their efforts, so if you are available and looking for some excellent entertainment, please come along and join us:

St Patricks College in Strathfield

Thursday 23rd May at 7-9pm

A big thank you to Ms Whitting, Vincent, and Wesley for all your work with the boys, they really appreciate it!



Ms C Morris - HT CAPA (Relieving)



THEATRESPORTS INTERMEDIATE

On Tuesday night our Intermediate Theatresports team participated in their first-round competition at St Patrick's College, Strathfield. The evening began with warmups hosted by Impro Australia for all schools participating. This was an opportunity to develop comradery between schools for an enjoyable evening.

It was a highly entertaining evening with the Ashfield team of Ry Kelly, Geordie Webb, Oliver Parkus - Major, Archie Carfax-Foster and Junchi Young all who had a wonderful night making it through to the next round. They were cheered on by their coach Wesley Stewart and parents.

Congratulations to the team and their wonderful coach Wesley, this is a great achievement as the boys were 'playing up' competing against older students. It has been wonderful experience for the boys who are looking forward to the next round.



Ms L Finigan - HT English



SYDNEY NORTH FOOTBALL KNOCKOUT

Our best football team has deservedly qualified into round 4 of Sydney North Football Knockout Competition. After having a bye in round 1, we comprehensively beat Homebush Boys' 5-3, after coming back from 3 goals to 1 down. Our round 3 game against Pennant Hills was replayed after the game was abandoned 20 minutes in, due to heavy rain and the field being flooded. Replayed game showed all the beauty of football as a world game can provide. The first half was completely dominated by Ashfield and as a result we were 2 nil up at the half time. We were creative, composed, patient, aggressive and had multiple chances to put this game to bed. On the other side, teams swapped roles in the second half and we had to defend vigorously in order to protect our lead. We were successful in our endeavour and as a result we booked a match against Killarney Heights High School, an opponent we beat 3-2, this time last year.



Mr S Calic - Football Coach



Winter Sport - Round 5 - 22nd May 2024

Grade Sport								
Assem bly point	Sport	Grade	Opponent	Venue	Coach	Leave class at	Assemble at	Game time
A	Badminton	Open/U15's	BYE	ABHS Gym	Mai		12:34	
B	Rugby 7's	U16's	Randwick/Epping	Boronia Park	Pearce	11:50	11:52	1:00/2:00
C	Rugby 7's	U14's	Randwick/Homebush	Boronia Park	Darwin	11:50	11:52	1:00/2:00
D	Football	1st	BYE	NA	Calic/Nguyen			
E	Football	2nd	BYE	ABHS Oval	Richardson		12:34	
F	Football	3rd	North Sydney	Pratten	Jakubowski		12:15	1:00
G	Football	U15's A	BYE	ABHS Oval	Jiang		12:34	
H	Football	U15's B	Ashfield C	Centenary	Curran		12:15	1:00
I	Football	U15's C	Ashfield B	Centenary	Mahmud		12:15	1:00
J	Football	U14's A	BYE	ABHS Oval	Payne		12:34	
K	Football	U14's B	Ashfield C	Centenary	Che		12:34	2:00
L	Football	U14's C	Ashfield B	Centenary	Sharp		12:34	2:00
M	Football	U13's A	BYE	ABHS Oval	Homer		12:34	
N	Football	U13's B	Homebush	Hammond	Mikic		12:15	1:00
O	Football	U13's C	Epping D	Hammond	Safi		12:34	2:00
P	Table Tennis	2nd/U15's/U14's	Homebush	HBHS Hall	Tenefrancia	11:53	11:55	1:00
R	Tennis	2nd	Homebush	Pratten	Williamson		12:25	1:00
R	Tennis	U15's/U14's	Homebush	Strathfield Sports Club	Owen	11:53	11:55	1:00

B Field 2 C Field 3 and 1

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Sport Detention/ Non Sport E3 12:34 - 14:31 Executive managed



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2nd May 2024

Social Inclusion Day with Canterbury Girls High School

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

As part of the Wellbeing programs at ABHS, Canterbury Girls high School and Ashfield Boys High School are conducting joint programs throughout the year. On 7th June 2024 CGHS are hosting our Year 7 boys. Our Year 7 boys and CGHS Year 7 girls will be participating in a variety of activities focusing on enhancing their communication and team building skills.

The following details are provided for your information:

Date:	Friday 7 th June 2024
Venue:	Canterbury Girls High School
Start time:	Regular period 1 and 2 classes – leaving ABHS after recess
Finish time:	2:30pm
Cost:	No payment is required.
Travel	Walking to CGHS
Dietary requirements note due:	Monday 20th May 2024
Equipment:	Equipment for regular period 1 and 2 classes
Clothing:	Ashfield Boys High School sport uniform
Lunch:	Students should bring their own recess. Lunch will be provided. Please provide information about any dietary requirements on the next page.
Teacher/s attending:	Ms Brown, Mr I Pieterse

Yours sincerely

Mr D Hopwood
Principal

Ms T Brown
Head Teacher Welfare

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS - Please complete and return if your son has any allergies or dietary requirements.

Please complete this permission note and return to Mr Pieterse by Monday 20th May 2024

Student Name:

Class:

My son has the following **allergies or dietary requirements such as Halal, vegetarian, gluten free etc** (please provide full details and include any relevant medical details):

I understand that my son will receive medical treatment in the case of emergency.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

When a medical practitioner has prescribed medication (including emergency medication) that will need to be administered during the excursion, parents are responsible for:

- Bringing this need to the attention of the school
- Ensuring that the information is updated if it changes
- Collaborating with the school in working out arrangements for the supply and administration of the prescribed medication for the duration of the excursion. For some excursions the school will ask you to supply the medication in a different way to what has been already agreed to by school. You may be asked to supply an additional adrenaline autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen® / Anapen®) for example.

.....

.....

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Privacy

The information collected is being obtained for the purpose of ascertaining relevant medical information, requirements and other health care related needs about your son who is currently enrolled at the school and who may participate in school excursions, sporting activities or other educational or school activities conducted by or in conjunction with Ashfield Boys High School.

It will be used by the NSW Department of Education and Communities to assist planning, to support students, and to minimise risks when conducting school excursions, sporting or other school activities.

Other persons or agencies that may be provided with this information include, but are not limited to, volunteers and members of external organisations who join with the school or are otherwise involved in the planning or delivery of the excursion, sporting or other school activity; and persons that may be called upon to provide health care treatment or other assistance during or as a consequence of such excursions or activities.

A failure to provide the information may mean that your child can not participate in a particular excursion or school activity. In such circumstances the school will make available a sound alternative educational experience.

Provision of this information will significantly assist the school in planning a safer educational activity. It will be stored securely. If you have any concerns about provision of this information, please contact the school principal to discuss further.

You may correct any personal information provided at any time by contacting the school office.

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Information.

.....

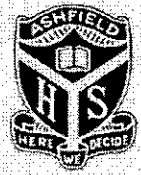
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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

ASHFIELD BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

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INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING YEAR 7 CAMP 2024

29th April 2024

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

A two night camp has been arranged for our Year 7 students at Sydney Sport and Recreation Centre at Narrabeen.

Attending camp is an extraordinary experience that builds our boys' self-confidence, teamwork and leadership skills and strengthens rapport with each other and their teachers. The boys are given many opportunities to participate in challenging activities which give them a powerful sense of achievement and a chance to discover new skills, build empathy, determination and independence. Attending the camp is an excellent chance to take part in a wide range of recreational activities and an opportunity to both strengthen friendships and make new friends.

The following details are provided for your information:

Date:	Week 1, Term 4 Wednesday 16th October to Friday 18th October 2024		
Venue:	Sydney Sport and Recreation Centre Wakehurst Parkway Narrabeen NSW 2101		
Travel:	Students will travel via private bus charter to and from school.		
Payment			
Cost:	The total cost will be \$ 418		
Deposit:	A non-refundable deposit of \$100 payable by Friday 31st May 2024 (Week 5 Term 2) to confirm your son's attendance at the camp and to allow us to finalise numbers.		
Payment Schedule:	To help pay for the camp over a period of time the school has a suggested schedule which is outlined below.		
	Week 5 Term 2 Friday 31st May 2024	\$100	Deposit
	Week 1, Term 3 Friday 26th July 2024	\$ 159	Second payment
	Week 7 Term 3 Friday 6th September 2024	\$ 159	Final Payment
Payments can be made online via the Ashfield Boys High School's SchoolBytes payment system.			

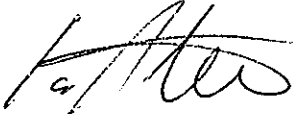
Supervision:	The students will be accompanied by teachers from ABHS; as well as having the care and expertise of Camp staff.	
Activities may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rope courses• Bushwalking• Field games• Kayaking• Stand up paddle boarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rock climbing• Abseiling• Archery• Giant swing

We enthusiastically encourage all Year 7 students to attend camp as it is such a worthwhile experience.

If you have any questions regarding the camp or any of the arrangements please contact the Year 7 Adviser 2024, Mr Pieterse

Further details including the permission note and medical forms, will be forwarded to you in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

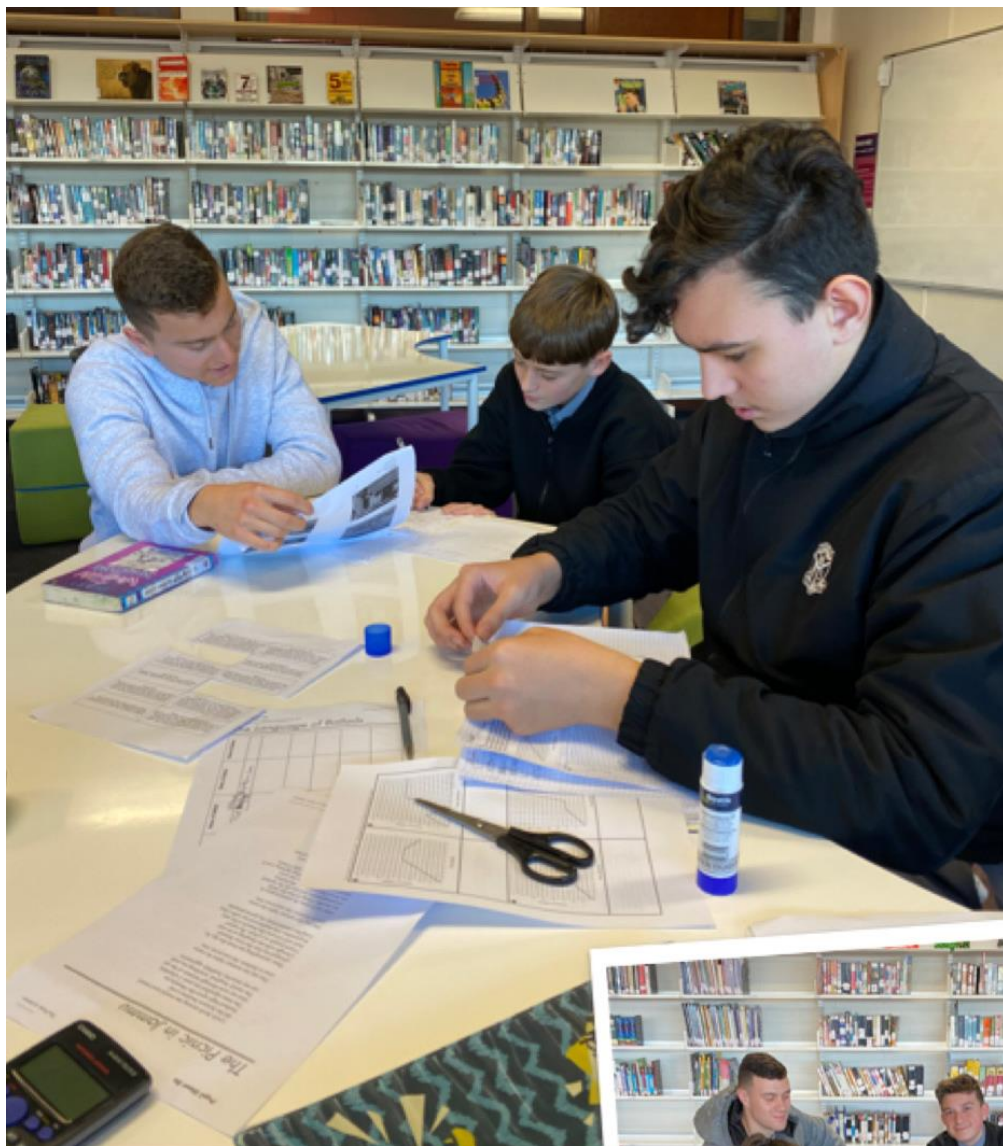


Mr Ian Pieterse
Excursion coordinator



Mr D Hopwood
Principal

HOMEWORK CENTRE



The after-school Homework Centre is operating on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon from 3.15 – 4.15 pm. This is an opportunity for your son to receive free help from teachers with his homework or other areas of his learning that would benefit from extra help. If you would like your son to attend, please complete and return the attached application form to Mr Tenefrancia. It is expected that students who apply to attend will join every session. A new application form is not required if you attended the Homework Centre in Term 1.

The operation of the Homework Centre for Term 2 will start in Week 2.



ASHFIELD BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

After School Homework Centre Application Form

Name: Year & Class:

Please list the type of help you would like to receive at the Homework Centre.

.....
.....
.....

Please tick which days you would like to attend the homework Centre.

- Monday only
- Tuesday only
- Both Monday and Tuesday

Subject	Teacher

I give permission for my son of
Year to attend the Homework Centre. My son will attend on the day/s written below
.....

I understand the following conditions apply to my son's attendance.

- Places are limited. Accepting a place requires my son to attend every week for at least one term.
- If my son is repeatedly absent his place may be given to another student on the waiting list.
- The Homework Centre operates Monday and Tuesday from **3.15pm-4.15pm**. Students are expected to arrive promptly. Parents are responsible for their son's supervision and travel after 4.15pm.
- Normal school rules and behavioural expectations apply to the Homework Club.

Parent signature:

Date:

Student signature:

Date:

Expectations for Homework Centre

Your son will enter Homework Centre with an attitude to work on assessment tasks or assigned homework task.

If no assigned work, we advocate that your son acquire the skills and habits of priority study. We see this as a worthwhile investment providing the foundation for achievable study practices for his Senior Year.

For that reason could he quietly choose one of the following:

- Revision of Subjects covered that day.
- Online English help using WordFlyers or Mathematics using Mathspace.
- Silent Reading for Renaissance Accelerated Reading Program and complete the quizzes.
- Complete one or more of the tasks as mentioned in the success planner.