

Dates to Remember

21 February
Zone Swimming

22-23 February
Yr 7 Best Start

24 February
Yr 10 Minimum Standards

1 March
School Photos

3 March
Digital Thumbprint



Newsletters are published in weeks 3, 6 and 9.

Are available online at:
www.winghamh.schools.nsw.edu.au

Are emailed to:

- all students @education emails
- parents/carers with registered email accounts.

To receive a copy via email:
Contact the school and update your email address

Or

Hard copies are available from the front office and the library.

Payments for excursions etc,
can be made online at

www.winghamh.schools.nsw.edu.au



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to another school year, one that will be full of opportunity and resume to something closer to normal. That is very much my hope and optimistic outlook for 2022!

We have definitely started the year with a COVID cloud hanging above us once more and the added extra of Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) being familiar language. What I have been pleased with is the resilience of our learning community getting on with business. I guess the summer break and plenty of surprises has numbed our level of shock to the ever-changing set of 'rules'.

We welcome an eager, new set of students into Year 7. These 92 students have settled in extremely well from my observation and have been great to converse with – primarily during those corridor conversations for me.

It has been pleasing to hear of our Year 12 cohort moving on to the next phase of life, post school. It was pleasing to hear that 100% of students that were looking to go onto university for their further education have been successful in their applications. Students achieved 15 Band 5 results across the school with some individuals achieving high results across all areas of study.

Wingham High School seems to be continuing a healthy number with just over 560 students enrolled at the time of writing. It is fantastic achieving larger numbers in our year groups enabling, potentially, greater degree of educational choice and opportunities. Speaking of educational opportunity, we are once again looking forward to (hopefully) opening up on excursions and out of school experiences for our students. There are plenty of staff with paperwork at the ready to provide greater scope of experience for students.

We also welcome some new staff and say goodbye to others for 2022.

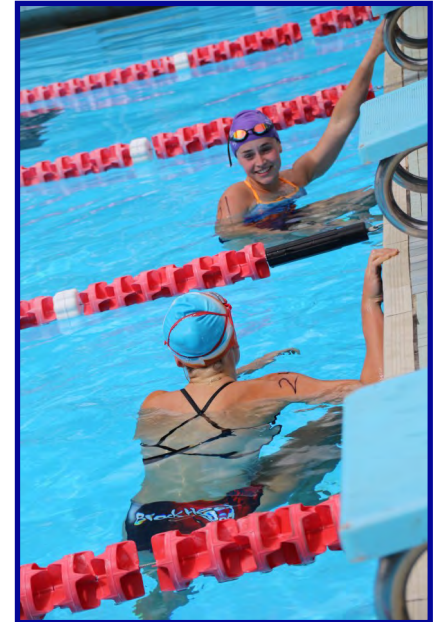
Mr Mills, Mr Brown, Mr Love, Mrs Curtis have all taken leave with a view to retirement whilst Ms Cross, Ms Rorison and Mr Lewers are new to the WHS staff. Mr Keen also makes a return back down in the TAS faculty as Head Teacher after a few years absence.

As was stated last year, we are continuing the messaging and follow up around the importance of school attendance. It is quite obvious that higher levels of performance and achievement are linked with school attendance. It is our goal that all students are in attendance greater than 90%. It is definitely a challenging goal in our current climate, however, one that is of great importance for learning in the short term and development of strong habits and characteristics.

We are working toward 2022 being a great year containing lots of positive reflections. We look forward to having community access the school and interact more closely with staff in the future. All the best and welcome to another year.

Paul Ivers

Swimming Carnival Highlights





Careers News

The University Roadshow visited Wingham HS on Thursday 10th February featuring the University of New England, Southern Cross University, Charles Sturt University, University of Newcastle and Taree Universities Campus. Representatives from each of these universities spoke to 18 interested Year 12 students about the benefits of attending regional universities and pathways to university.

Year 12 were supposed to attend an excursion next week to the University of Wollongong. Unfortunately, this had to be postponed by UOW due to current COVID regulations. UOW are hoping to hold an on campus event later in the year.

There are lots of opportunities available to our students and therefore lots of information to disseminate. I give out relevant information at Year Meetings, through the Student Notices on Sentral, by email and Year 11 and 12 Facebook groups.

Our school subscribes to Study Work Grow (formerly known as mhscareers), a careers service which allows students or parents to be kept up to date with Careers News and Events. Newsletters are sent weekly to Year 12.

The school also has a Wingham Careers website which is www.winghamcareers.com. This service is provided by an external company and has lots of useful Careers information as well as templates for resumes and letters of application. Students need to register and can then access the Students Secure Area.

The rest of Term 1 and Term 2 are already shaping up to be busy with excursions to the Charles Sturt University Port Macquarie Campus on Tuesday 8th March, University of New England at Armidale on Friday 6th May and the University of Newcastle (date to be confirmed) for Year 12. There is also a Health Careers Forum Excursion on Tuesday 8th March to the University of Newcastle Department of Rural Health at Taree for interested students in Years 10/11/12.

Year 10 have a number of Careers events and information coming up. Work Experience lessons are scheduled for Week 6 with all of Year 10 so students are then welcome to start organising placements as convenient. Year 10 will be involved in subject selection interviews for their senior patterns of study during Term 2. Year 10 have the opportunity to participate in a Certificate I in Financial Literacy course – this is in partnership with the Smith Family

Students and parents are most welcome to make an appointment to see me as required. I look forward to working with you to gain the best possible outcomes for your child.

Mrs Shirley Clissold

Careers Adviser.

Best Start Year 7 Assessment

Year 7 students will participate in the Best Start Year 7 Assessment in Term 1, 2022.

Best Start Year 7 is an online literacy and numeracy assessment available to secondary schools that assesses key literacy and numeracy skills of Year 7 students. It is designed to assist teachers to identify students who may require additional support in developing their literacy and numeracy skills.

The 2022 assessment window is:

- 2 February to 4 March 2022 (Eastern Division Schools)
- 9 February to 11 March 2022 (Western Division Schools)

The purpose of the Best Start Year 7 assessment is to provide feedback to teachers to help identify student needs.

Feedback will be provided to teachers who may choose to share this with students, parents and carers during teacher interview processes.

Best Start Year 7 is just one of a range of assessments the school uses to assess students.

Hunter SSA Open Girls Cricket Trials Success for Jaimee-Lee

Last Friday I travelled to Maitland to trial for the Hunter Open Girls Cricket team. It was a wet day but we were able to get on at the Maitland Indoor Centre. I was chosen and will get the opportunity to travel to Albury to compete in the Hunter team at the NSW CHS State Championships from the 21st to the 25th of February. I am very excited as I love playing carnivals. I think we have a good team this year and are in with a good chance to do well so that is exciting.

Jaimee-Lee Woolfe Year 11

Ashlie Stapleton	Newcastle HS
Mia Cook	Warners Bay HS
Sophie Cook	Warners Bay HS
Samira Mitchell	Taree HS
Lucy Pearce	Hunter Sports HS
Kate McTaggart	Merewether HS
Eden James	Lambton HS
Jaimee-Lee Woolfe	Wingham HS
Whitney Stace	Maitland HS
Piper Hooke	Hunter Sports
Lara Robertson	Mt View HS
Keira Knipe	Merewether HS

Lorraine McGrath

Lorraine has been volunteering here at our canteen for the last 41 years. She is 85 years young and is back on the roster for as long as she would like. What a treasure she is and is absolutely adored by all of us in the canteen and the whole school.

TAS Teacher Peter Strahan made her this beautiful clock from a white cedar tree that was on the grounds but cut down many years ago.

Thank you so much for your service to the school, Lorraine.



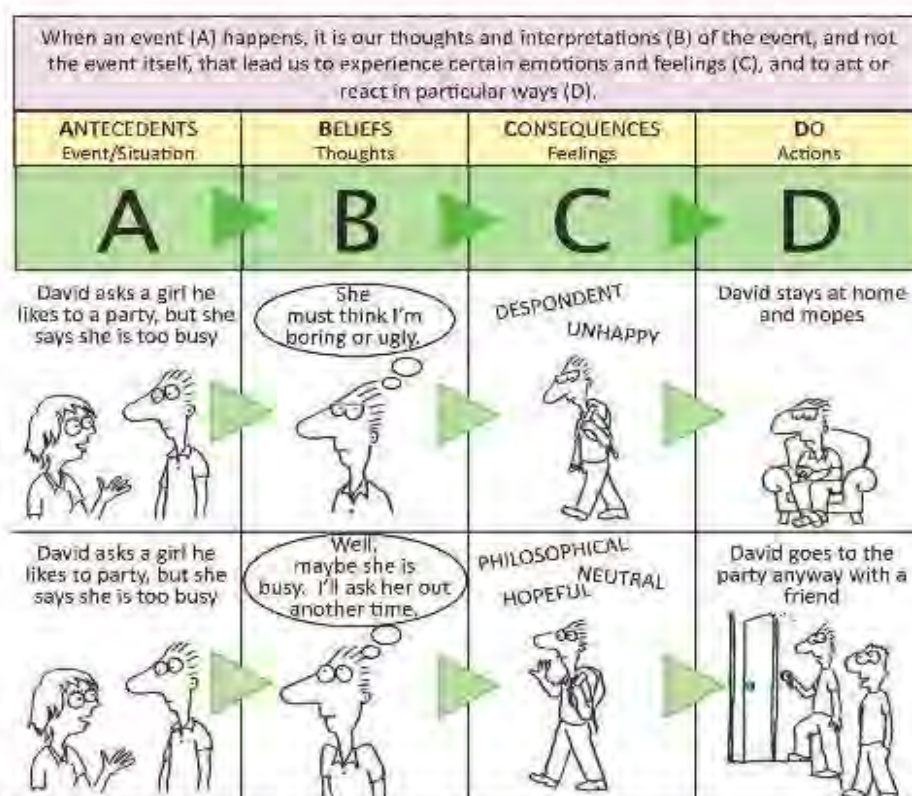
Introducing Future Focus - Building Resilience in our Students

Students in Year 8 will be participating in a strengths-based program during 2022, called Future Focus. We will be looking at areas of wellbeing based on a program called Second Step. The program is aimed at building resilience in young people, to help them manage the life challenges that are an inevitable part of growing up.

The Future Focus program is part of Wingham High School's commitment to understanding that teachers, in partnership with parents, have a significant role in promoting good mental health in their students. Future Focus will provide a range of skills to empower students to understand and care for their own wellbeing.

Our program will take on a strengths-based approach. Instead of focusing on negatives and things that don't work, it assists young people to focus on the unique characteristics and qualities they have, but are inclined to ignore or downplay. How often do your children comment on the things they can't do? A strengths-based approach does not require individuals to excel or perform in particular areas, but rather it encourages them to acknowledge and appreciate the small things they do in their everyday lives – such as being a good friend, being responsible and demonstrating small acts of kindness that reflect underlying valuable qualities. The program also encourages young people to develop good help-seeking skills for themselves and others, so they can obtain assistance if challenges are too difficult for them to manage alone.

Many of the activities will give students the opportunity to practice breaking down their thoughts in the following way:



In Semester 2, the Future Focus program will be using a Project Based Learning model to allow students to work individually and cooperatively with their peers to develop their ability to build relationships and enhance their connection to school. These are vital elements to improving your child's sense of self and belonging. Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss the lessons at home with their children so that all students understand that the significant people in their lives have an important part to play in their wellbeing.

Please contact Kat Brown, Peta Tattersall or Numia Meaney if you have questions about the program.

Optus Digital Thumbprint Workshop Incursion Information

Students will be participating in an educational activity, Digital Thumbprint Workshop, to be held in our MPC on Thursday 3rd March 2022.

These workshops are aligned to our curriculum that teach young people to participate safely online, with the tools they need for positive, responsible and authentic experiences.

Each Year group will be attending a workshop that is tailored to them.

Year 7 – Cybersecurity

Year 8- Cyberbullying

Year 9- Digital Discernment

Year 10- Digital Identity

Year 11 and 12 Digital Identity and Digital Balance

Students will be attending the workshop for one period on the day in their year group.

They will be supervised by their Year Advisor and their classroom teachers for the period that they will attend the workshop.

There is no cost to the student

*Please note that the Digital Thumbprint Program is an initiative from Optus' Community Team focused on empowering the next generation to achieve their full potential. **As such, this program is provided at no cost to all schools and will not promote the products or services of Optus.***

Workshop	Content	Year Level
Cybersecurity	How to strong passwords, enabling privacy settings on social media, and understanding just how easily and far things can spread when shared on the internet.	5 - 8
Cyberbullying	Understanding the importance of respectful relationships and the impact of cyberbullying Explores Image Based Abuse & Consent online.	7 - 10
Digital Discernment	Social media has the power to influence society, and our friends for the better. Work through scenarios and practice discernment to see through online media and problem solve for a safe and healthy online solution.	8 - 12
Digital Identity	Gives students the opportunity to examine their social media profiles and posts through the lens a boss applies in the process of hiring and during employment. Students work through improving their online identity for future success.	9 - 12
Digital Balance	During the workshop, students explore the positive uses of technology on our wellbeing and take steps to improve our digital wellbeing through streamlining what our devices can do for us.	9 - 12

HSC Minimum Standard Tests

Year 10 students will sit for the Minimum Standards Tests on Thursday the 24th of February 2022.

A note will be handed out closer to the date with further information.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HSC minimum standard Information for parents and carers

What is the HSC minimum standard?

The HSC minimum standard was created to help ensure that students have the key literacy and numeracy skills for life after school. Students in New South Wales will need to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC credential from 2020.

The HSC minimum standard is set at level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF). These skills are essential for everyday tasks and learning after school such as writing a letter for a job application or understanding a mobile phone plan.

The standard is assessed through online tests across three areas: reading, writing and numeracy.

The minimum standard online tests are 45 minutes long and include a multiple choice reading test, a multiple choice numeracy test and a short writing test based on a choice between a visual or written prompt.

Examples of the tests are available on the [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\) website](https://www.nesa.nsw.edu.au/). Practice tests are available for students to sit at school to help them become familiar with the online test structure and for schools to help determine student readiness to meet the minimum standard.

Who needs to complete HSC minimum standard online tests?

Students who complete the HSC in 2020:

- Students who are completing the HSC in 2020 and achieved a Band 8 or above in Reading, Writing and Numeracy in their 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN results, do not need to sit the NESA HSC minimum standard online test.
- Students who did not achieve a Band 8 in any one of the 3 areas of their 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN, but who have subsequently sat and achieved level 3 in the corresponding HSC minimum standard online tests in 2018 or 2019, have met the standard.
- Students who did not achieve a Band 8 in any one of the 3 areas of their 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN, and have not yet sat the HSC minimum standard online tests must sit the tests in 2019, 2020 or during the first few years after school.

Students who will complete the HSC in 2021 and beyond:

All students must sit the NESA HSC minimum standard online tests in reading, writing and numeracy.

When can students take the HSC minimum standard online tests and who will administer them?

Students will have four opportunities per year to sit the HSC minimum standard online tests in each area of Reading, Numeracy and Writing, in Year 10, 11 and 12.

Students are required to wait at least 30 calendar days before re-attempting a test in the same domain.

Please note: in 2020, NESA has increased the chances Year 12 students have to sit the minimum standard online tests. Students yet to meet the HSC minimum standard will be able to attempt each test up to six times in 2020, with 14 calendar days between re-attempts. Students in Years 10 and 11 continue to have four chances a year to sit each test.

The tests must be administered by schools via a lockdown browser.

Students will also have up to 5 years from the time they start their first HSC course to sit the minimum standard online tests.

Disability provisions and exemptions:

Students with additional learning needs may be eligible for extra provisions for the minimum standard online tests or be exempt from meeting the HSC minimum standard in order to receive their HSC. Parents should contact the school to find out more information.

Life Skills courses are designed to provide an equitable pathway to the HSC. Students taking four or more Life Skills courses can be exempt from meeting the HSC minimum standard. Please contact your school for more information.

Further information

NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)
educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard

Yr 12 2021 Fundraiser - Dolly's Dream



2 February 2022

Dear Wingham High School Team,

Thank you for supporting Dolly's Dream

On the 1st February, Dolly's Dream received \$969.20 following your year 12 school fundraiser:

Thanks to you, these funds will go towards programs and services and other efforts to create positive change for young people and help prevent the lives of other children being lost.

Some of the ways we are doing this is by:


- supporting schools with our eSmart framework, workshops and kindness activities
- speaking directly to parents through our newsletters, advice columns and Parent Hub portal
- providing online products to families, helping with those really important conversations
- helping young people via our workshops, digital products and through our advocacy efforts
- supporting the wider community, particularly those in rural and regional areas, by providing a free counselling service, the Dolly's Dream Support Line.

We have only been able to ignite this conversation about the devastating effects of bullying and bring Dolly's Dream to life because of generous supporters like you. You have our heartfelt thanks.

We are committed to changing the culture of bullying by increasing the understanding of the impact of bullying, anxiety, depression and youth suicide, and by providing support to both children and parents.

Thank you again for your support of Dolly's Dream. You really are making a difference.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Kate and Tick Everett.

Kate and Tick Everett
Founders



Have you ever wanted to learn an instrument?

Manning Valley Concert Band are holding OPEN REHEARSALS for Term 1 and 2 this year. Starting at 5.00pm MONDAY at the Band Room in River Street EVERYONE is invited - any age, any level, beginners to pro's. If you have always wanted to play NOW is your chance and WE WILL TEACH YOU. We have some instruments available for those who get in fast! FLUTES, CLARINET, OBOES, SAXOPHONES, TRUMPETS, TROMBONES, EUPHONIUMS, TUBA and PERCUSSION all up for grabs! For more information see Mrs Harrell, Mrs Boyle or look them up on Facebook.



Wingham High School's Multi-Purpose Centre used for Australia Day Celebrations





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FUN, EXCITEMENT AND ADVENTURE

www.navycadets.gov.au  

Phone: **Deb Shaw 0429 451 508**



Australian Navy Cadets (ANC) are recruiting 13-18yr olds. If you are turning 13 this year, you can join Training Ship Manoora now. Also seeking Adults, 19+ yrs, to join our staff team, training is provided. No joining fee and uniform supplied free for cadets and staff.

Meet: Fridays 5.30-8.30pm
Macquarie Barracks
Muldoon St, Taree.
Open school term, closed school holidays.

Interested in joining the ANC?
Submit an expression of interest using our Join Online form @ www.navycadets.gov.au
or email debra.shaw@navycadets.gov.au.



Wingham High School Newsletter



Canteen Roster Term 1

FEBRUARY 2022

Staff Development Days - Friday 28th & Monday 31st January – Students return Tuesday 1st February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
30	31 Start of Term 1 Staff Development Day	1 Jennifer	2 Judy Sky	3 Marina Bev	4 Jenny Taila
6	7 Garry Fred	8 Jennifer	9 Judy Julie	10 Valda	11 Jenny Taila
13	14 Garry Fred	15 Jennifer	16 Judy Marina	17 Bev	18 Jenny Taila
20	21 Garry Lorraine	22 Jennifer	23 Judy	24 Fred	25 Jenny Taila
27	28 Garry Fred	1	2	3	4

CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

All you need is a free Volunteers Working with Children's Check and one simple form for you to enjoy a free morning tea and lunch and a good laugh with our fabulous canteen team. However, most importantly you are helping our students receive nutritious, NSW Government approved meals. You won't have to serve or handle money.

So come in and lend a hand as much or as little time as you like - and you don't have to have a child at this school to help!

Please call Judy on 6553 5488.



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Now available by order**

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