

Newsletter

Grafton High School

Term 3 Week 10 2021

From the Principal's Desk

We have reached the end of yet another term that we will remember forever as being one of the strangest periods of time in our schooling experience. We have still managed to achieve some great things at Grafton High School as you will see in this newsletter and on our social media, and I would like to thank our whole school community for these positive outcomes. Through the hard work of our staff, resilience and hard work from our students, and really positive support from our families, I feel we have avoided just marking time, and have enabled our students to continue developing and progressing. We obviously do not know what Term 4 will bring, and it again may be disrupted depending on factors outside of our control, but based on our success this term we can all take confidence that we will overcome whatever is thrown at us.

Year 12 Term 4

Our Year 12 cohort will return in Term 4 for four weeks of classes prior to a small break before their HSC examinations begin. Our thoughts have been with this cohort as they reach the culmination of their 13 years of schooling, and while I know it has been confusing and difficult at times, I am impressed with the will to continue, and encourage all students to apply themselves for one last effort towards the examination period. We hope to hold celebrations of some sort at the end of Week 4, and we are awaiting advice to come early next term as to what activities will be permitted by NSW Health and DoE.

New Executive Staff

In Term 4 we will welcome the arrival of Ms Brenda Baker who takes up her new permanent role as substantive Deputy Principal at our school. I take this chance to thank Mrs Lisa Hill for the three terms she has acted in the role, in what has been a unique and disrupted period of Grafton High School's history. As Lisa returns to her substantive Head Teacher Science role, it also means Kyle Strano finishes his time relieving in that role. Thanks to Kyle for his leadership during this time as well.

Scott Dinham
Principal

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New HSC Timetable



All HSC students will get the opportunity to complete their studies in 2021, with the full complement of HSC exams to go ahead from 9 November 2021.

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has issued a revised timetable, with 110 exams taking place over 19 days, ending on 3 December.

This revised timetable can be viewed here:

<https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/key-dates-exam-timetables/hsc-written-exam-timetable>

Students will receive their ATARs on 20 January 2022, with their HSC results released on 24 January.

Strict COVID safe protocols supported by NSW Health will be in place to protect students, exam supervisors and school staff when HSC exams start on 9 November 2021.

The protocols for a COVID-safe HSC require exam supervisors to be fully vaccinated and strongly encourage eligible HSC students to receive two vaccine doses before exams start.

Other safety measures include:

- Mandatory face masks for students and staff, indoors and outdoors
- Check-in and health screening protocols for students and staff
- Physical distancing between students and staff at all times
- Minimising mingling of student groups
- Keeping exam group sizes as small as possible
- Desks spaced a minimum of 1.5 metres apart and exam rooms well ventilated
- Hygiene marshals and regular cleaning of exam rooms.

An illness and misadventure process will be available for students who are unable to attend an exam due to having a positive COVID-19 test result, or being a close contact.

According to the HSC Enrolment Snapshot which will be released by NESA on Monday 68,710 students are on track to receive the HSC in 2021.

2021 HSC Written Exam Timetable • Week 1

	Monday 8 November	Tuesday 9 November	Wednesday 10 November	Thursday 11 November	Friday 12 November
	-	HSC Day 1	HSC Day 2	HSC Day 3	HSC Day 4
AM		English Advanced Paper 1 – Texts and Human Experiences 9.50am – 11.30am English Standard Paper 1 – Texts and Human Experiences 9.50am – 11.30am English Studies 9.50am – 12.30pm English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) Paper 1 – Module A and Focus on Writing 9.50am – 11.30am	English Advanced Paper 2 – Modules 9.25am – 11.30am English Standard Paper 2 – Modules 9.25am – 11.30am English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) Paper 2 – Module B and Module C 9.25am – 10.30am Listening Paper 10.40am – 11.10am*	Economics 11.25am – 2.30pm Classical Hebrew Extension 11.30am – 1.30pm	Classical Greek Continuers 9.25am – 12.30pm Software Design and Development 9.25am – 12.30pm Textiles and Design 9.25am – 11.00am German Continuers 9.30am – 12.30pm Spanish Extension 9.30am – 11.30am
PM		Aboriginal Studies 1.55pm – 5.00pm Chinese and Literature 2.00pm – 5.00pm Chinese in Context 2.00pm – 4.40pm Classical Greek Extension 2.00pm – 4.00pm German Beginners 2.00pm – 4.40pm Modern Greek Continuers 2.00pm – 5.00pm Modern Hebrew Continuers 2.00pm – 5.00pm Vietnamese Continuers 2.00pm – 5.00pm	Music 1 Aural Skills 1.55pm – 3.00pm* Music 2 Musicology and Aural Skills 3.25pm – 5.00pm*		Modern History 1.55pm – 5.00pm

2021 SCHOOL LEAVERS STRATEGY

REGISTER FOR POST SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Training Services NSW and Industry are working together to support 2021 school leavers with their transition into local job opportunities and further training (fee free) post school.

If you would like to gain skills over summer with free training, the **Summer Skills** program has been designed specifically with school leavers in mind. The program allows students to explore their interests and gain valuable skills that they'll be able to take with them, wherever they end up!

Training will be delivered from Monday 15 November 2021 to 30 April 2022. Once students register via the QR code, students will be contacted with further information about courses of their interest post school.

You can choose from a range of short courses where there are plenty of jobs available in the following industries, **scan the QR Code** now:

- Hospitality (including RSA & RCG)
- Construction (including tickets)
- Agriculture
- Community Services
- Sport & Recreation – Swimming
- IT/Digital

Scan the QR Code to register



If you are job ready and looking for work after school, including an Apprenticeship or Traineeship or part time employment to get you through University, register and create a profile on the My Future Workforce Northern Rivers platform. We are working with local industry and Business NSW to ensure available vacancies are advertised on the platform. Here's how the platform works...



Local school leavers create a profile detailing what type of employment they are looking for and are matched to local opportunities based on their skills and preferences, viewed on a personalised dashboard. Here they can add information to improve job matching and see recommended positions, courses and support. **Register for free today;** <https://northernrivers.myfutureworkforce.com.au>

Don't miss out! Register your interest today!

C Piper – Careers Adviser

Support Unit Garden News

Spring has sprung! Support students are enjoying time in their garden! Our students grow an assortment of quality herbs and vegetables, and have recently started to grow a variety of cut flowers. The flowers are arranged into posies and make a lovely display. These products are sold by the students and valuable life skills are learned along the way.



Cooler Classrooms – Cool for School

We are very excited to tell you that Grafton High School now has fully installed and operational Cooler Classrooms equipment, thanks to the NSW government investment of more than \$500 million dollars over five years to improve indoor comfort and air quality in public schools around the state.

Our school has installed two new air conditioning units – in our Textiles room and an upstairs classroom in A Block. Reverse-cycle air conditioning will now keep these learning spaces comfortable during hot summers and chilly winters while fans and fresh air ventilation systems maintain healthy air quality.

To increase energy awareness and keep running costs low, smart outdoor weather monitors linked to interactive control systems are installed. These enable students and teachers to make energy efficient decisions to improve classroom comfort.

By creating healthy and comfortable learning environments at our school, our students can focus on what matters – learning.

Cooler Classrooms Program

Improving indoor comfort and air quality

Research shows that the quality of learning environments can have a positive impact on learning outcomes for students.

The NSW Government's \$500 million Cooler Classrooms Program has been designed to improve the quality and comfort of indoor environments within classrooms and libraries in NSW Schools.

We're sustainably creating healthy classroom environments for our students by:



Indoor environmental quality, most easily explained as a feeling of personal comfort within an indoor environment. Comfort is influenced by a range of factors including physical activity, clothing, air movement, air temperature and humidity.



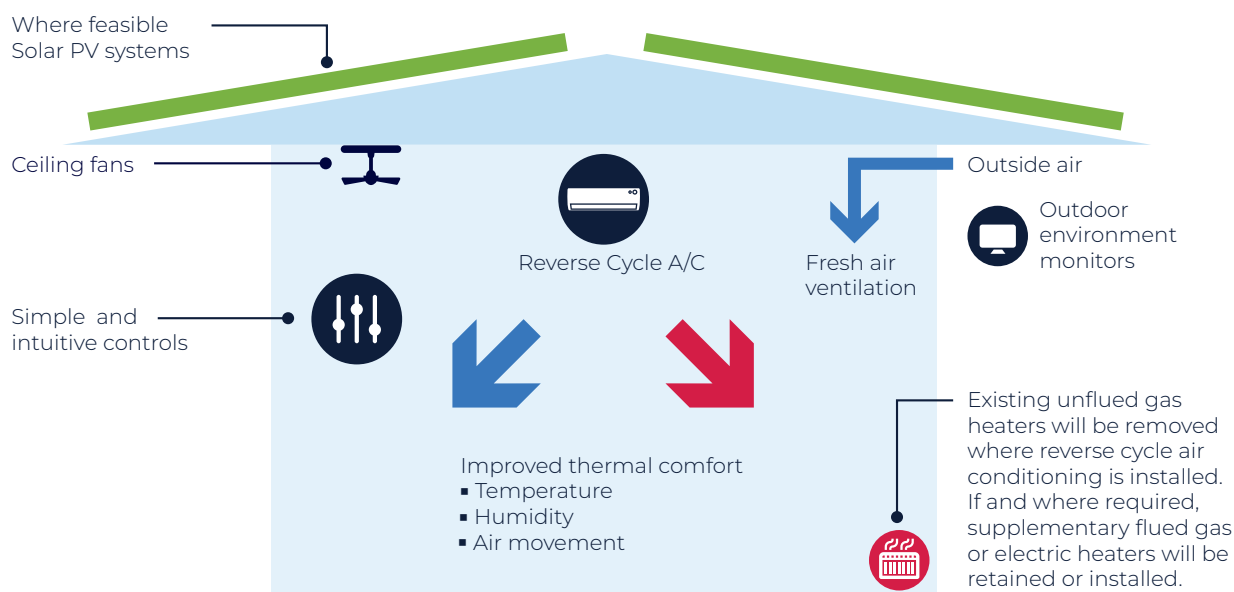
Indoor air quality, typically refers to the air quality within buildings and the health of the people within it. Indoor air quality is influenced by a range of factors including the number of people within a space, their level of activity while within a space, and access to fresh air ventilation through the use of fans and windows.



Energy awareness, we're providing students and teachers with the knowledge and tools to understand and improve their use of energy.

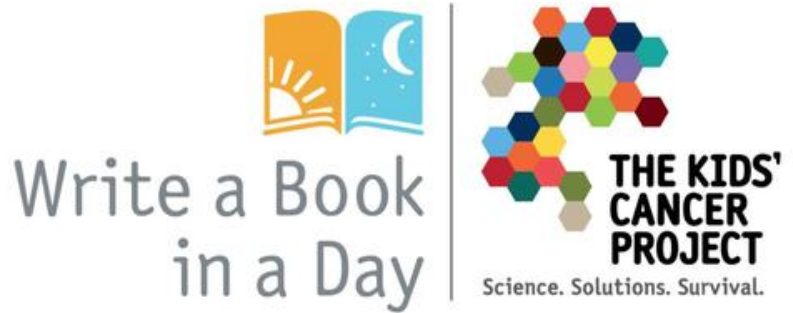
We know that our physical environments can affect us, our productivity and our ability to learn and develop. Improving indoor classroom environments and comfort can contribute to improved learning outcomes.

Cooler Classrooms – all the things we're considering



Write a Book in a Day

Write a Book in a Day is a fun, creative and collaborative competition for students in years 5 to 12. Teams have twelve hours to write and illustrate a book from start to finish. Students are provided with a unique set of parameters, which must be included in the story. Digital editions of the completed stories are then made available on the Online Library and shared with hospitals across Australia, providing reading material for children undergoing cancer treatment.



This year, Grafton High School participated for the second year with 8 students completing the competition virtually via zoom during lockdown. Despite being placed under unique difficulties, Nadia Smith, Sienna Eastment, Mae Carroll, Sienna Connell, Leni Rush, Lotte Pereira, Melinda Mifsud and Grace Kennedy successfully completed a 25 page book in the 12 hours titled: "Shipwrecked" which tells the story of 3 people that become stranded on an island off the coast of Australia and realise there's more to life than fame and fortune.

All funds raised through sponsorship go towards The Kids' Cancer Project, a national charity supporting childhood cancer research. So far this year, the competition has raised over \$540,000, which directly funds scientific research to find better treatments and ultimately a cure for childhood cancer. If you would like to donate to this charity, information is provided on the GHS facebook page.

K Strano – HT Science

Latin in Lockdown

During the past term, ten students from Years 9 and 10 participated in a unique Latin Tutorial Program. The course was delivered by former Grafton High School student, Tegan Gleeson, who is a Doctoral candidate at the University of Tasmania. The students learned the basic structures of Latin, encompassing its many ongoing uses in modern English. The tutorials were the first of their kind in regional NSW, and gave our students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the language of Ancient Rome.

We wish to thank Tegan and the University of Tasmania for their fantastic work.

Mr S Robertson – HT HSIE



Mid North Coast Athletics Age Champions

Congratulations to Mason Cone, Shanae Crispin and Daniel Lavender who were awarded Age Champions at this years Mid North Coast Athletics Championships.



Ex-GHS Student Wins Scholarship

After leaving Grafton High School in 2019 and moving to Sydney to take on a plumbing apprenticeship, ex-student Jonothan (Jono) Pollock has recently been successful in attaining a Bert Evans Scholarship.

The scholarship is worth \$5000 dollars a year over three years, with funding provided through the NSW Department of Education. Applicants must be active in an approved apprenticeship at the time of being awarded the Scholarship.

The aim of the Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships is to assist NSW apprentices who have experienced hardship in their life to successfully complete their apprenticeship. The objectives of this program are to:

- support apprentices to progress through to completion of their chosen trade calling
- encourage more apprentices to achieve their goals and make a valuable contribution to their local communities
- invest in individual development to support employment outcomes

The scholarships are named in honour of the late NSW Apprenticeship Ambassador and patron of the NSW Training Awards, Mr Bert Evans AO, in recognition of his outstanding support for vocational education and training and for apprentices in New South Wales.

For more information visit:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/apprentices-and-trainees/support-and-services/bert-evans-apprentice-scholarships>



Play Touch Football

**GRAFTON SUMMER
COMPETITIONS**

MIXED OPENS

WOMEN'S

MEN'S

YR 7/8

YR 4/5/6

YR 3 & UNDER

Where: Rushforth Park

When: Wednesday

Registrations: Online

Begins: 6th October

graffton.nswtouch.com.au



grafftontouch@gmail.com

PLAYNRL.COM