





## Valentine's Day Fundraiser

Love was in the air at Grafton High School on 14 February as Year 12 students spread the love in their annual Valentine's Day Fundraiser. The sounds of Justin Bieber's 'Baby' and One Direction's 'You Don't Know You're Beautiful' rang out across the school (some might say a little too much!), as students and staff were serenaded, covered in glitter or decorated with lipstick, at the request of a friend, loved one or secret admirer. Flowers, chocolate and lollies were also on offer on the day, with Year 12 students making deliveries to classrooms and staffrooms throughout the school. Year 12 students are to be congratulated for their efforts in creating such a positive and inclusive feeling across the school and students and staff are thanked for assisting with Year 12's fundraising efforts.



## Super Tuesday

Each Tuesday lunchtime, senior students are invited into the Learning Loft in the school's Library to get some extra assistance with classwork and assignments from dedicated staff who give up their time to support their students. Super Tuesday, driven by Head Teacher HSIE, Mr Robertson, is an opportunity for students to have some tasty 'brain food' from our school canteen and ask questions, use the school's resources and work collaboratively with their fellow students and teachers. Super Tuesday is an important element of our High Expectations focus. Students are encouraged to come along and take advantage of the help provided.





## Year 12 Study Day

On Friday 18 February, Year 12 took part in a Study Day, designed to refocus their efforts as they push forwards through their final year of schooling onto their HSC Examinations. Students took part in three sessions run by school staff. Mrs Piper (Careers Adviser) and Mr Yong (Assistant Year Adviser) guided the students through NESA requirements, Ms Bell (School Counsellor) and Ms Davies (Students Support Officer) provided the students with strategies and information to help them maintain their mental health and wellbeing through what can be a stressful and overwhelming time in a student's life. Mrs Martin (Head Teacher Teaching and Learning) led the students through some reflective practice, asking students to honestly assess themselves as 'effective learners' along with providing the students with strategies to help with their time management and organisation, and suggestions for revision. Students were able to get active and bond as a group as they took part in a competitive game of Dodge Ball, before engaging with a guest speaker from Elevate Education, whose seminars and workshops help students improve their study techniques, increase motivation, build confidence and lift exam performance.



## Sentral Parent Portal

Recently, parents and carers were emailed with information and instructions explaining the 'Parent Portal Access Key Registration'. This provides parents and carers with access to the Sentral Parent Portal which includes discreet information about each student's progress in our school. This system is also used to create bookings for Parent-Teacher Interviews when these events occur. Should you experience difficulties with this process, please do not hesitate to contact the school for assistance.



## Clarence Valley Sports Awards

The Clarence Valley Sports Awards took place on Saturday 5 February. We would like to congratulate Grafton High School's student finalists: Nadia Smith - Finalist - Junior Female Athlete of the Year (Rowing); Jack Leeson – Finalist and Winner - Junior Male Athlete of the Year (Swimming and Rowing) and Nadia Smith, McKenna Wearing, Letitia Black, Sophie Hinterholz and Bella Mitchell - Finalist and Winner - Junior Sports Team of the Year (Rowing).



## Attendance Matters at Grafton High School

As part of our High Expectations here at Grafton High School, we are focusing on student attendance. A new initiative has been put in place to improve student attendance and to make students and parents/carers aware of the importance of student attendance on a successful education. All parents/carers will be receiving a letter that identifies their child's attendance rate and days absent as well as information around what being absent means for the child and their education. These will be sent via e-mail, during Week 1 and Week 6 of every term. If you have any questions, please contact the school and ask to speak to the Attendance Team.





# Attendance Procedures at Grafton High School

Students must by law attend school each day it is open. If students are unable to attend for some reason, then the following procedures should be followed:

A Parent/Carer should notify the school by telephone, email, or fax before 10:00 am on the day of absence to prevent an SMS or letter being sent home. Following an absence from school, a verbal or written explanation must be provided within 7 days. Alternatively, a parent/carer can respond to the absence notification text.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified.

Written explanation notes should be handed in at the Attendance Window which is at the Front Office. Notes must clearly state: student's full given name and surname, year, date or dates absent, reason for absence and signed by parent or guardian.

NB: There is a form available from school (see below). This form ensures all necessary information is included and assists in the filing of notes. Please use it whenever possible.

If a student is going to be absent for any day please notify the school. This can be done by:


- Telephoning 6642 3355
- Emailing the School [grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)
- Delivering or sending a note to the Attendance Window at the Front Office.

If a student is to be absent for an extended period, parents need to apply for an exemption from attendance through the Front Office. Supporting documentation will be required.

Students who arrive late to school must report to the Attendance Window, preferably with a note from their parent/carer stating the reason for being late. They will then be issued with a Late Arrival slip. Students will not be admitted to class unless they produce this Late Arrival slip.

Students who wish to leave the school during the day must bring a note from home requesting permission to do so. This note must be submitted before school, at recess or lunch before the pass out can be issued. Students must be signed out at the Attendance Window before leaving and signed in at the Attendance Window when they return to school.

The procedures outlined are designed for the safety and welfare of all students, to reduce the level of truancy and to assist the running of the school.

	<b>PHONE:</b> 6642 3355 <b>FAX:</b> 6642 3184 <b>E-MAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au">grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	 <b>Grafton High School</b>
<b>STUDENT NAME (Please print):</b> _____		<b>YEAR:</b> _____
<b>DATES of WHOLE DAY ABSENCES:</b> _____		
<b>DATE of PARTIAL ABSENCE:</b> _____		<b>TIME:</b> _____
<b>REASON for ABSENCE:</b> _____		
<hr/>		
<i>NOTE: Illness and family emergencies are the only lawful reasons for leave. School sport is compulsory.</i>		
<b>SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN:</b> _____		<b>DATE:</b> _____ <b>PHONE NO:</b> _____

# Why attendance matters



When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

## Days missed = years lost

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

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per **fortnight** = **4** weeks  = Over **1** year missed



**1** day per **week** = **8** weeks  = Over **2.5** years missed



## Assessment Booklets and Planners

During Week 4, students in Years 7 to 10 received their Assessment Booklets and an Assessment Planner designed to help students organise themselves and improve their time management so that they are able to better prepare for tests and assignments. During Home Room lessons, students were taken through the assessment procedures at Grafton High School and were given an opportunity to transfer assignments and tests from their Assessment Booklet to their Assessment Planner. Students are encouraged to display their Assessment Planner somewhere at home as a visual reminder of the assessments they have coming up and use the Assessment Booklets for further detail. We encourage parents and carers to discuss this with their child/children and if any students have not received an Assessment Booklet or Assessment Planner, they are asked to see their Home Room teacher for a copy of each.



**Assessment Task Planner**  
Record the subject, type of task and its weighting in the appropriate week  
Term 1, 2022

Student Name:	Year Group:		
Tasks due in Week 1			
Tasks due in Week 2			
Tasks due in Week 3			
Tasks due in Week 4			
Tasks due in Week 5			
Tasks due in Week 6			
Tasks due in Week 7			
Tasks due in Week 8			
Tasks due in Week 9			
Tasks due in Week 10			

**Assessment Task Planner**  
Record the subject, type of task and its weighting in the appropriate week  
Term 2, 2022

Tasks due in Week 1			
Tasks due in Week 2			
Tasks due in Week 3			
Tasks due in Week 4			
Tasks due in Week 5			
Tasks due in Week 6			
Tasks due in Week 7			
Tasks due in Week 8			
Tasks due in Week 9			
Tasks due in Week 10			

## Year 7 Meet the Teacher

The parents and carers of Year 7 students are invited to 'Meet the Teachers' their child will be working with and learning from in 2022. The link below will allow you to access a website where you can read some information prepared by your child's teachers that explains what they will be learning in 2022, along with a link to their 2022 Year Assessment Booklet. Parents and carers are encouraged to contact their child's teachers if they have any questions or concerns about their learning in 2022.

<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/year-7-meet-the-teacher-2022/home>





# NSW Combined High Schools (CHS) Rowing Championships

The Clarence River hosted the NSW Combined High Schools (CHS) Rowing Championships on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 February and Grafton High School sent a competitive team, despite it being the first regatta for some students. For some, their personal performances resulted in excellent race times and for others, a finals berth was achieved. A huge congratulations goes to all members of the Grafton High School Rowing team for coming in as the third placed Champion School. Particular acknowledgement goes to our female rowers who won first place in the Overall Women's Point Score. Well done to all on your display of a competitive team spirit.





## GHS Civil Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Course

Year 12 Grafton High School student Tyrone Wilson recently completed a 5-day Civil Construction Pre-Traineeship skills course with Yalagan Group Training where he obtained his Construction Industry White Card, Work Safely at Heights licence, Operate Elevating Work Platform licence (Yellow Card) and License to Operate a Forklift Truck and got a general 'taste' of life working in the construction industry. Tyrone said he enjoyed the course, particularly being able to obtain his construction industry licences, which he hopes will come in handy when he finishes school and embarks on his career pathway to undertake a trade. "My favourite part was operating the forklift and elevating work platform. The course will help me find a career and give me a better opportunity of getting a job." The civil construction course was offered for free and funded by the Educational Pathways Pilot Program (EPPP) operating at our school.



## Regional University Roadshow

On 14 March, Grafton High School hosted the Regional University Roadshow for Year 12 students to provide information about university life, accommodation, finances and the application processes. We had representatives from Charles Sturt University, Southern Cross University, University of New England and University of Newcastle in attendance.





## Grafton High School Basketball

Grafton High School students have recently been involved in two Basketball competitions. Our Opens Boys Basketball Team travelled to Coffs Harbour to play a Round Robin Gala Day at Sportz Central. The team played extremely well to make to the Combined High Schools Finals, beating Toormina and Orara convincingly on the way to the final. Unfortunately, the boys lost the final to a very good side from Coffs Harbour Education Campus.

We have also had 7 students participate in the Bruce Leonard Challenge 3x3 competition. The competition will be played over five weeks on Tuesday afternoon at the Grafton PCYC. The Challenge started on Tuesday 8 March, with students playing warmup games to get used to the 3x3 format. Our Senior Boys team dominated the warmup games and hope to take out the competition.



## Upcoming Events

- 22 and 29 March- Bruce Leonard Challenge 3x3 Basketball
- 22 March- Australian Defence Force Presentation
- 22 March- CHS Football Gala Day
- 23 March- Bangara Dance Workshop
- 23 March- Frozen Musical for CAPA students in Years 8 to12
- 23 March- MNC Rugby League Trials
- 24 March- Coordinated NAPLAN Practice Test for Year 7 & 9
- 25 March- Ride 2 School Day
- 4 to 8 April- Year 10 Work Experience (Group 1)





# Bicycle Safety Stand



## Come along to our Free Bicycle Safety Stand

- Participate in a bicycle safety quiz online
- Watch a helmet fitting demonstration or a bicycle maintenance demonstration by a bike mechanic
- Chat with our friendly team about keeping bicycle riders safe
- COVID-19 Safety Protocols apply

Date	Time	Location
Friday 18 March 2022	9am – 2pm	Grafton Shopping World Fitzroy St, Grafton NSW
Thursday 24 March 2022	3pm – 7pm	Grafton Twilight Markets Market Square, Grafton NSW



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Email: [grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone: 02 6642 3355 Fax: 02 6642 3184  
Web: [www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

