

BOWDEN BROMPTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

TERM 1 2026 NEWSLETTER

'A NEW START FOR A POSITIVE FUTURE'



Principal's Report

Harmony Day and 50th Anniversary celebration.

On the 18th March, Bowden Brompton Community School proudly marked two significant milestones: Harmony Day and our 50th anniversary celebration.

Harmony Day is a cherished occasion within our school. It is a time to celebrate the rich diversity that makes BBCS such a vibrant and unique community. Each member of our school, students, families, and staff brings their own story, culture, and perspective, contributing to a tapestry of experiences that strengthens us all. Harmony Day reminds us that respect, inclusion, and belonging are not just ideals but actions we live out every day. It is a powerful reminder that no matter our backgrounds, we all belong, and our collective strength lies in unity.

This year, our Harmony Day celebration is even more meaningful as we mark 50 years of Bowden Brompton Community School. For half a century, our school has been a place of learning, growth, resilience, and achievement. Founded on the vision of creating opportunities for disadvantaged and disengaged young people, BBCS has evolved into a nurturing environment where every student is supported to find their pathway and realise their potential.

Generations of students have journeyed through our doors, each leaving a unique mark and adding to the legacy we honour. We gratefully acknowledge the commitment and care of the principals, teachers, support staff, and families who have dedicated themselves to building this supportive and inclusive community. Their belief in the potential of every young person continues to shape the lives of students, past and present.

At BBCS, we are deeply proud of our trauma-informed and student-centred approach. We meet every learner where they are, supporting not just academic growth but also personal development and wellbeing. We recognise that success looks different for each individual, and every step forward, big or small, deserves to be celebrated.

While our 50th anniversary is a fitting time to reflect on our achievements, it is also a time to look ahead. Our next chapter will be written through our shared commitment to learning, collaboration, understanding difference, and maintaining a community where every young person feels safe, visible, and valued.

We usually wear orange or come in traditional national attire in celebration of Harmony Day. However, I decided to wear gold, in honour of BBCS's golden jubilee. We recommit ourselves to the legacy of inclusion, compassion, and Philotimo that defines our school.

Thank you to everyone, students, staff, families, and community members who have been part of this journey and to all those who will shape the future of BBCS.

A special thank you to Mario and all the staff and students who helped organised a successful Harmony Day celebration and prepared food to share. A big thank you to Di for baking the school's birthday cake and to Talisha for decorating the cake. The cake looked great and tasted even better. Your efforts make these moments memorable for all.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Belinda for her work in leading the Beach Campus in David's absence.

John Leondaris

Deputy Principal's Report

Term One is always a busy time as everyone settles back into the rhythm of school life, and this year has been no exception. Our school has been vibrant and bustling, with consistently high attendance throughout the term. Classrooms have been a hive of activity, and I have observed purposeful and intentional learning across all our learning spaces. It is wonderful to see students participating enthusiastically in many fantastic activities—from Middle School news reporting lessons and informative reports on food chains, to SACE students engaging with Maths, English, Exploring Identities and Futures (EIF) and the Activating Identities and Futures (AIF) subjects. I have also witnessed our Life Skills programme being implemented school-wide. It is truly inspiring to see students so passionately involved in these subjects, and in learning more generally. This newsletter features images of students proudly celebrating and showcasing the skills and abilities they have developed over the term.

We continue our journey of enhancing students' metacognition—or simply, thinking about their thinking. Metacognitive thinking is a valuable skill, critical to our students' future aspirations. At the core of metacognition are the key principles of planning, monitoring, and evaluating, which form the foundation of our student-parent-teacher meetings. These meetings provide important opportunities for students to begin setting goals, monitoring their progress, adjusting strategies, and evaluating their achievements over the term. I encourage all parents to be part of this process and to engage with the fantastic work our community school is undertaking.

Term 1 is also when we celebrate Harmony Day, which brings us together to honour unity, diversity, and mutual understanding. Once again, Mario curated an outstanding day of activities, highlighted by the ever-popular Staff Dunk Tank! This year, Harmony Day also served as a celebration of our school's 50th birthday. The school marked the occasion with a birthday cake and everyone joined in singing 'Happy Birthday'. It was a wonderful day celebrating inclusivity, a diverse selection of food, excellent local music, and a warm community atmosphere. Well done, BBCS!

Our Torrens Road campus had the privilege of welcoming Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and her husband, Mr Rod Bunten, for a school visit. Her Excellency and Mr Bunten met with student leaders, including SRC representatives, who confidently shared their experiences of school life, learning, and future aspirations. After engaging with students, Her Excellency offered positive feedback regarding the school's culture, the professionalism of staff, and the enthusiasm of our students. Her support and visit are greatly appreciated as we continue to strive for excellence.

I would like to extend my thanks to all teachers, curriculum and admin SSOs for your dedication and commitment this term. Your efforts ensure that every student is treated with respect and kindness and is provided with opportunities to engage in transformative learning programmes. You are an amazing team, and I truly appreciate your professionalism and support. I look forward to working with you again in Term 2.

Jason Rowe

Torrens Road Campus

Assistant Principal's Report

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, it is a valuable opportunity to reflect on the growth, achievements, and progress across our campus.

A key highlight this term has been the strong engagement of our senior students in external courses. It has been particularly encouraging to see students embracing opportunities beyond the classroom, whether through VET programs, workplace learning, or external training pathways. These experiences are helping students to develop practical skills, build confidence, and gain greater clarity about their future directions. The level of commitment and maturity demonstrated by many of our senior students is something our community can be proud of.

Another significant focus has been the transition of new middle school students joining our campus from a range of external schools. Starting in a new environment can often be challenging; however, it has been pleasing to see how positively these students have settled in. They are forming connections, engaging in their learning, and becoming part of the culture of our campus. Creating a strong sense of belonging remains a priority, and it is encouraging to see this taking shape so early in their journey with us.

Across the campus, there has been a continued emphasis on consistency in teaching and learning, with clear routines and structured approaches supporting student engagement. This has contributed to a calm and purposeful learning environment where students are supported to achieve their best.

This term has also highlighted the importance of strong relationships—between students, staff, and families. These partnerships are central to supporting both wellbeing and learning growth, and they remain a key strength of our school community.

As we look ahead to next term, we will continue to build on these foundations—strengthening pathways for our senior students, supporting the ongoing development of our middle school cohort, and maintaining a clear and consistent focus on high-quality teaching and learning.

Thank you to our entire school community for the ongoing support and commitment that makes our campus a positive and engaging place for all students.

Wishing everyone a safe and restful break.

Mario Maiello

OPENING PATHWAYS: OUR CAREER EDUCATION JOURNEY BEGINS AT BBCS

At BBCS, we believe every student deserves to see a pathway for themselves—and while we are only at the beginning of our career education journey, we are committed to making those pathways visible and achievable.

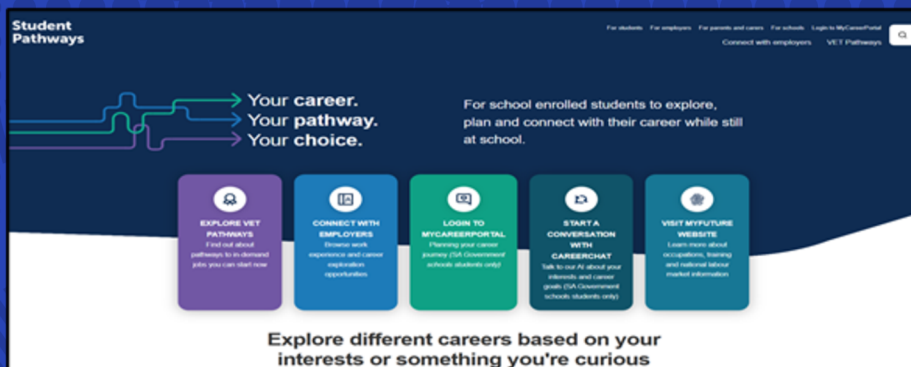
Many of our young people are still discovering their strengths and interests, and we know that planning for the future can feel overwhelming. We're starting small, focusing on building self-awareness, introducing practical opportunities like VET and short courses for our senior students, and opening up career conversations in the classroom at all levels.

Our approach is new and growing, but already we are:


- Making use of trusted career tools and resources
- Initiating ways to track progress and share successes
- Connecting senior students with hands-on experiences such as White Card and First Aid

We understand that this is only the first step. As we begin to embed career education at BBCS, our goal is to help every student start thinking about what's possible for their own future. Our staff are committed to walking alongside students as they explore, ask questions, and build the skills and confidence they'll need to take their next steps.

This is just the beginning of our career education story at BBCS, and we're excited to see where the journey takes our students.



www.studentpathways.sa.edu.au



Career Awareness Series
Events guide for secondary school staff
2026

Student Pathways

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Free Career Guidance & Jobs for all Ages

Adelaide
careers & EMPLOYMENT expo

MAY 9 & 10 2025

Entry's FREE

careeremploymentexpo.com.au



LIFE SKILLS AT BBCS

This year at BBCS we have launched the Life Skills education program, which encompasses Choice Theory, Cultural Perspectives, Berry St Model of Education (highlighting the benefits of self-regulation, emotional intelligence and mindfulness), Health across the Middle and Senior School years, Child Protection Curriculum, work ready skills and personal development.

The Life Skills initiative 'equips all students with practical life skills, emotional regulation, and self-responsibility to navigate real-world challenges and transition confidently into adulthood, aligned with the school's vision for independence, wellbeing, and positive post-school pathways.' (Jason Rowe, 2026)

Students are responding well to these subject areas and have done some amazing work and self-reflection across Term 1. Well done to all.

Mary

The 5 Basic Needs

I have a power need.

- > This means I want to do well.
- > I want people to see what I do.
- > I want people to think I am great.
- > I want to be the boss.
- > This helps me feel important.








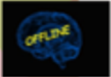

Chair Yoga

Sit with your feet flat on the floor
Notice your feet in your shoes
Pick up your right leg and cross it over your left knee.
Lean forward gently.
Where do you feel the stretch?
Repeat with your left leg.



HOW STRESS CAN AFFECT THE BODY


- Dilated Pupils**
- Heart rate gets faster...**
- Sweaty**
- Tense muscles...**
- Brain shuts down or starts to race**
- Feel irritated and tense**
- Focus on problem**

BSEM MS BODY LESSON 2: WHAT STRESSES ME OUT?


LEARNING INTENTION:

I CAN NAME WAYS THAT STRESS AFFECTS MY BODY



Uncle Eddie's Story

- Where Uncle was born
- Family tree-where it began, who, when
- Traditional life-getting a job, raising children, language, role and responsibilities, customs, creation story (Genesis - anyone will learn next week)
- Life on the Island
- Photos that tell a story. Historical evidence: '51' (MAGD, N.22088, AG-42 apr 1911) (1/10/10)
- Missionaries and the change of life for Torres Strait Islanders (Quincannon)




MSCPC: WARNING SIGNS

LEARNING INTENTION:

I CAN:

- * UNDERSTAND BRAIN/BODY RESPONSES IN UNSAFE SITUATIONS
- * DEVISE WAYS TO KEEP SAFE IN UNSAFE SITUATIONS



MS HEALTH - ADOLESCENCE

LEARNING INTENTION:

I can

- Name the stages of adolescence.
- Understand the purpose of the Life Skills program.

Artefacts, instruments for ceremonies from the Torres Strait

- Boomerang-for hunting and fighting
- Guba Guba - club for fighting
- Clap Sticks (for singing and ceremonies)
- Coolaman - to carry babies
- Kulap (shell shaker for music and dancing)
- Bamboo was used for weapons, tools and to build houses.
- It also makes a great instrument with a loud 'crack' sound
- Huge shells (bu shell) were used to warn the group that someone was coming.



MS3 STARS



MS3 students have had a busy and exciting start to the year. It's been wonderful to see everyone coming together, making new friends, and learning to work well with others in class.

This term, we visited the CAWRA Recycling Plant to learn about recycling, and enjoyed a day at Morialta Conservation Park exploring nature. At the Adelaide Fringe Festival, students visited an immersive video installation titled Cuttlefish, Camouflage and Colour and learned all about Cuttlefish in the Spencer Gulf.

We also participated in Closing the Gap Day, where we learnt about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and celebrated Harmony Day with activities that promoted inclusivity and respect.

It has been a great start to the year filled with learning, teamwork, and new experiences. We look forward to more exciting opportunities ahead in Term 2.

Sarah W & Brett

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animal care

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HARMONY DAY



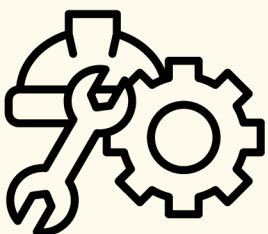
ART



BUILDING LINKS

This year the students undertaking a Certificate 2 in Construction Pathways have a house at Exeter to work on . Theory and practical modules are progressing well now that we have a committed group of five students. The house in its present condition allows our students plenty of scope to learn many aspects of the various construction trades .Some of these skills include; bricklaying, painting ,floor tiling, concreting, constructing wall frames and taking accurate measurements not only including length but square metre areas of the house. The day generally starts with students signing on and working on their learning modules until lunch and continuing on with practical exercises in the afternoon. The students we have are enthusiastic and willing to learn new skills.

John Ruediger



SACE FOOD IN THE TORRENS ROAD KITCHEN HARMONY DAY / BIRTHDAY!

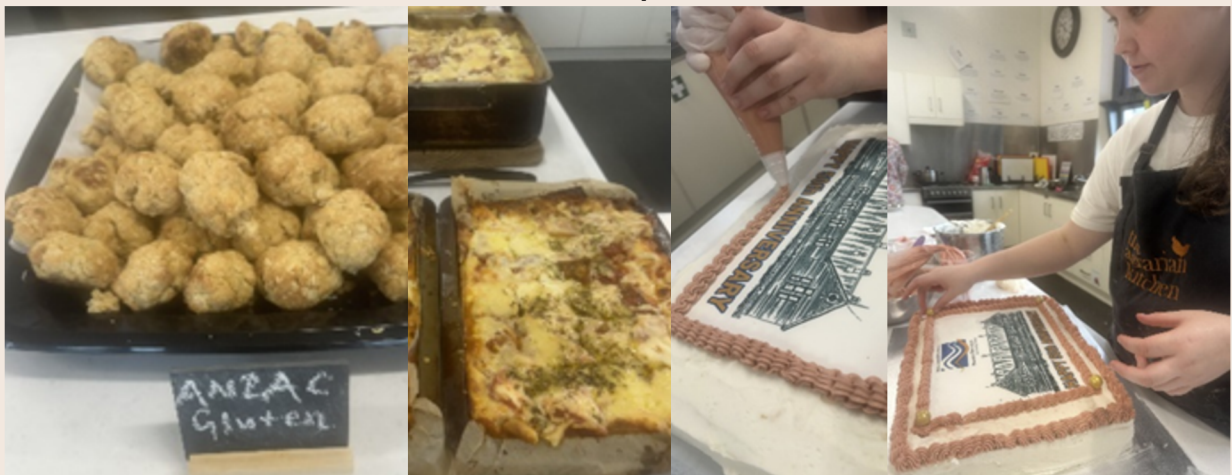


This term, SACE Food students completed their first Practical Task, catering for Harmony Day. The task included discussions about the culture they identify as, and researching the traditions of various cultural cuisines.

Talisha celebrated French culture, planning a Gratin Dauphinois (that's cheesy potato bake to you and me!) Dylan C celebrated Aussie culture and learnt some war history through making ANZAC Cookies, with Jakob M creating a delicious Gluten Free option. Jakob created Italian lasagne, using both GF and regular fresh pasta sheets and we also made a vegetarian option with roasted pumpkin and cheese. This year, for our 50th birthday, we also had cake! Talisha did an exceptional job of icing and decorating the cake. Her steady hand and creative flair are amazing to witness.

Staff feedback about Harmony Day catering was outstanding. We were very fortunate this year to have dishes brought from all the other BBCS sites, who created dishes from all over the world. What a feast! Amazing work from all cooking students, thank you for your commitment and enthusiasm.

Mary



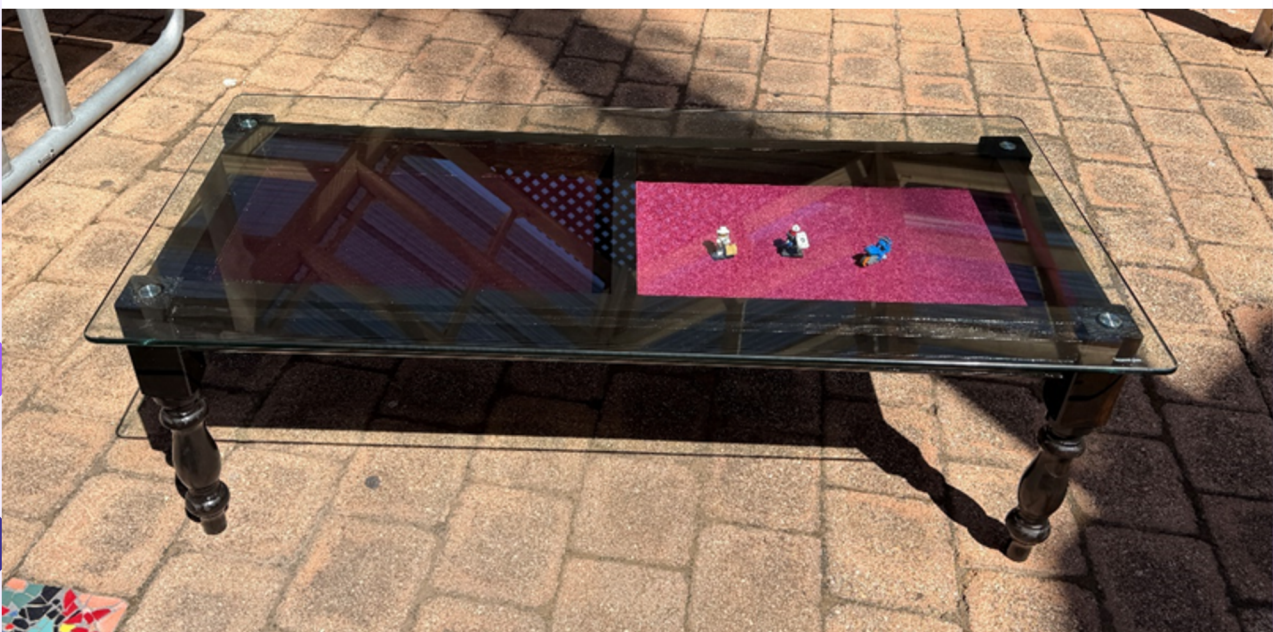
SACE TECH



It has been great to see some hard work and problem solving in the workshop this term. We have had a couple of students complete the practical part of their Stage 1 assessment task. Hopefully the remaining tasks will be completed before the semester is up.

Congratulations to Austin & Jiden for working diligently and productively on their table & tool trolley. They have shown skill development, used a variety of new tools and constructed two impressive projects. Well done!!

Sandy



Beach Campus

Assistant Principal's Report

As we move through a busy and rewarding start to the year, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank our wonderful school community.

Firstly, I extend my sincere thanks to all staff for their support during my time acting as Head of Campus while Dave was on leave. Your professionalism, flexibility, and willingness to step in wherever needed ensured continuity for our students and maintained a calm, supportive environment across the campus. It has been greatly appreciated. I am also very pleased to welcome Dave back and look forward to his continued leadership.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your ongoing support. Whether attending meetings, assisting with pick-ups and drop-offs, maintaining communication, or working alongside us to support your child, your involvement makes a significant difference. Strong partnerships between home and school are key to student success, and we truly value the time and effort you give so generously.

I would also like to acknowledge Gus for stepping up while our groundsman was on leave. Your initiative and pride in maintaining our school environment did not go unnoticed—thank you for your contribution.

Beach Term 1 Highlights:

Harmony Day: Students and staff came together to celebrate diversity, inclusion, and respect. It was wonderful to see such positive engagement and a strong sense of community across the campus.

Run Club: We are excited to see a number of students showing interest in participating in the City to Bay fun run later in the year. Training has begun with Sam, and students are already building their fitness and commitment each week.

Cultural Awareness: Each Thursday, we are fortunate to have Uncle Eddie working alongside Beach classes, providing rich cultural experiences through storytelling, dance, and excursions. We have also begun planning for a yarnning circle in the space where our large front-of-campus tree once stood. This will create a meaningful and inclusive space for connection, reflection, and conversation within our school community—so excited.

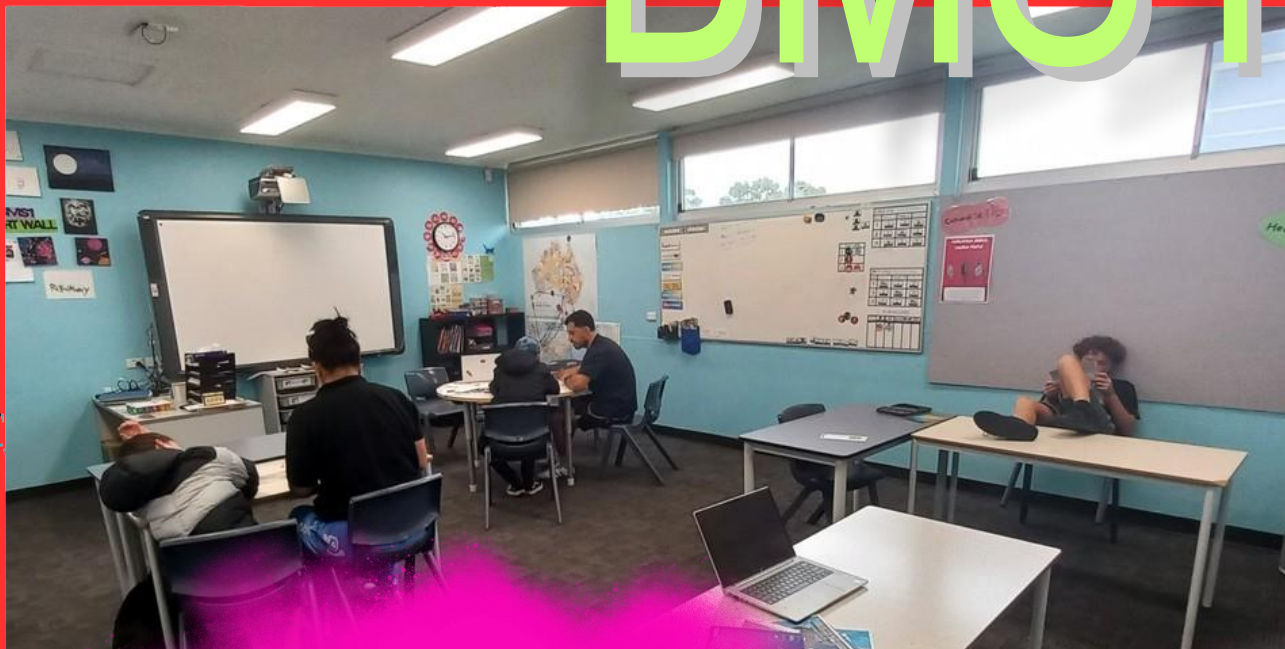
NAPLAN: NAPLAN has recently taken place, and I would like to thank Tim for overseeing the process. I also acknowledge our students for engaging in ways that felt manageable for them. We recognise that NAPLAN can be challenging, and we are proud of those who participated, attempted sections, or demonstrated perseverance simply by attending. These assessments are just one part of a student's learning journey, and we continue to prioritise growth, wellbeing, and individual progress.

As always, we remain committed to supporting every student's wellbeing, engagement, and learning. Thank you again to our entire school community for your continued support.

I wish everyone a safe and relaxing break and look forward to welcoming students back next term.

Belinda Keatley

BMS1



This term BMS1 has had lots of success!! Engaging well in their English and Maths lessons as well as exploring Choice theory, Cultural Education and Health Ed. There was also a lot of art with polymer clay and drawing. We are excited to more success next term.

Amazing work bms1!





C U L T U R A L E D U C A T I O N

This term, our students have been engaging in various cultural learning experiences as part of our ongoing commitment to Reconciliation and cultural understanding.

We have embraced the tradition of yarning circles, providing students with the opportunity to come together, share stories, and listen to one another in a respectful and inclusive environment. These sessions foster a sense of community and deepen our appreciation for Aboriginal ways of learning.

Students have explored their creative talents through art activities inspired by First Nations artists and stories. These artistic endeavours have helped students express their interpretations of culture, country, and identity.

Our classes have also visited significant sites to gain a deeper insight into the rich history and continual connection to land held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Through these initiatives, our school is proudly fostering a spirit of inclusivity, respect, and harmony as we learn from and celebrate diverse cultures within our community.

KNOW YOUR CITY



During Term 1, students from Beach Campus visited:

Victor Harbor

Haigh's Chocolate Factory

Fringe Festival virtual reality shows

Adelaide Oval

Harvest the Fleurieu – strawberry picking and took part in a farm tour.

At each place, students shared their thoughts and experiences, reflecting on what they learned and enjoyed during the visit. These visits not only helped them explore Adelaide's unique culture and environment, but also created opportunities for career awareness by introducing them to different industries such as tourism, agriculture, entertainment, and food production.



Let's Go

RUNNING CLUB

 RUN

 REST

 REPEAT



Building More Than Runners: Preparing for City to Bay

Our Beach running group is about more than preparing for the City to Bay — it's about developing strong, resilient young people with skills for both sport and life.

Through a structured training program, students build their fitness, develop goal-setting skills, and deepen their understanding of health, including recovery and nutrition. A strong focus on perseverance supports students to grow in confidence as they overcome challenges and reach personal milestones.

The group has also developed a genuine sense of team and belonging, with students consistently encouraging and supporting one another during runs.

Alongside their physical development, students are building important life skills such as commitment and self-discipline, while gaining a greater appreciation for maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle.



Little Para Campus

Assistant Principal's Report

This term, we were pleased to welcome several new staff members to the Little Para team: Justin, Olivia, Andy and Kob. Justin has been working alongside Kristian in LP2, Olivia has been supporting Tom in LP1, Andy has been working across Little Para, and Kob has joined Jack and Meriam in our Integrate program. We feel very fortunate to have such caring and passionate people join our team.

We will also be saying goodbye to Meriam, who is heading off on maternity leave. Meriam has been an integral part of the day-to-day running of Little Para and will be greatly missed. We wish her all the very best and warmly congratulate her as she begins this exciting new chapter.

At the end of the term, we will also farewell Olivia. Although she has only been with us for a short time, she has made a positive impact in LP1 and will be missed. We wish her all the best in her new role at another school.

I would like to congratulate all students who have achieved their learning goals this term and have shown commitment and responsibility in their core lessons. There have been some key adjustments to our curriculum this term, including the implementation of our Life Skills program during core lessons and a stronger focus on cultural awareness, supported by Uncle Eddie on Fridays.

This term, Year 7 and 9 students also completed their NAPLAN testing. I would like to commend those students who approached this with a positive attitude and gave it their best effort.

Students also participated in Harmony Day celebrations, which provided an opportunity for the whole school to come together and celebrate the diversity of our Bowden Brompton community. In addition, Integrate and Gateways students attended the Close the Gap event at the Adelaide Showgrounds.

I would also like to congratulate the Student Representative Council members who were voted in by their peers. Five students across Little Para were nominated: Thomas H (LP1), Liam R (LP2), Caleb D (Integrate), and Charlie H and Dannika N (Gateways). Students are encouraged to liaise with their SRC representatives to share ideas throughout the year.

Thank you to all caregivers for your ongoing support this term. Please feel free to reach out to care group teachers either at the end of Term 1 or the beginning of next term to discuss your child's progress.

I wish all staff, students and their families a safe and restful break and look forward to welcoming you back for Term 2.

Tammy Scott

LP2



This term, LP2 students have been busy learning, creating, and having fun together in class.

One exciting project we have started is building a factory in Minecraft. Students have been using their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills to help design and create this shared world. Our factory is just the beginning, as this project will eventually grow into the creation of a Minecraft city. It has been wonderful to see students so engaged and excited as they plan, build, and contribute their ideas.

We have also been really enjoying Blooket sessions in class. Blooket has been a fantastic way for students to practise their learning in a fun and interactive way. The class has loved the chance to revise knowledge, challenge themselves, and enjoy some friendly competition with their peers.

In English, students are currently learning about information reports. Throughout Term 1, we have been exploring the features of information reports, including structure, subheadings, factual language, and how to organise ideas clearly. Students have been reading information, discussing key facts, and working on writing their own reports.

It has been a positive and productive start to the term, and I am very proud of the effort students have been showing in their learning.

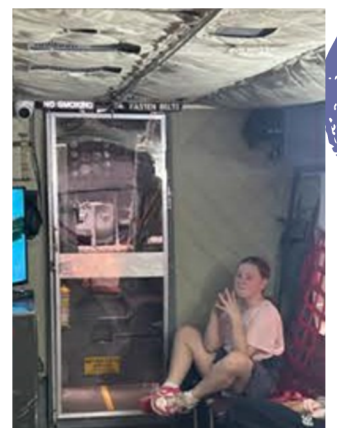
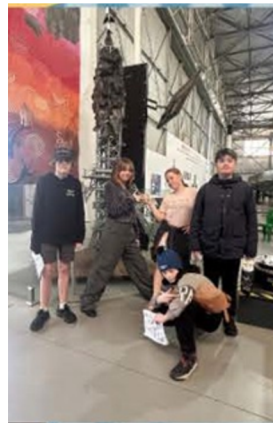
GATEWAYS



First term has been an exciting one with our young people engaging in learning and earning pathways, earning important skills and qualifications to set up their futures. Some of these opportunities involved Mini Woolworths retail training, Barista training at Regency TAFE, a trip to Haigh's chocolate factory, work experience, a visit to SHINE SA and NGTALI driving school lessons helping our young people achieve their L's.



INTEGRATE



This term, our Integrate students have made a strong start to the year, with new students settling in well and quickly forming positive connections within the group. It has been great to see everyone working towards their personal goals, showing determination and a willingness to challenge themselves.

Highlights this term have included visits to the Aviation Museum, MOD, and celebrating Harmony Day together. We wish Meriam all the very best as she begins her maternity leave. She will be greatly missed, and we look forward to having her back soon.



SAVE *The* DATE

TO CELEBRATE THE SCHOOLS 50TH BIRTHDAY

EVENING

FRIDAY

26

JUNE

INCLUSIVE OF FORMER STAFF &
STUDENTS

MORE INFORMATION IN TERM 2

RSVP TO:
dl.1418.anniversary@schools.sa.edu.au

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