



## BISHOP DRUITT COLLEGE

*Educational Excellence For 30 Years*

111 North Boambee Road  
PO Box 8004  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

Phone (02) 6651 5644  
secretary@bdc.nsw.edu.au

[www.bdc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.bdc.nsw.edu.au)

CRICOS Code 02333G

10 November 2023

### 2023 End of Year Secondary Letter

Dear Parents and Carers

We extend our gratitude to you for your unwavering support of our students, the school community, and the diverse educational opportunities they experience each year. We also wish to offer our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Nick Johnstone, our college Principal, on his recent appointment as a Lay Canon of the Cathedral in Grafton. We continue to hold him in our prayers for guidance. The Canons of Christ Church Cathedral in Grafton play a vital role on the Cathedral's Chapter, a committee that assists the Dean in advancing the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Mr. Johnstone's appointment will strengthen the connection between our Anglican schools in the Diocese and our Cathedral.

#### Looking to the Future and Our Community

We are pleased to report that student enrolment numbers are on the rise, with waiting lists for most year levels from Kindergarten to Year 10. In 2024, Year 11 is expected to be the largest cohort we have ever had. Unfortunately, we had to decline over 80 Year 7 enrolment applications for 2024. If you know of friends or family interested in enrolling at BDC, we strongly encourage them to enroll early, with kindergarten being the ideal starting point.

Wellbeing remains at the core of our Anglican college, and it continues to receive significant focus and resource allocation across all year levels from Kindergarten to Year 12. Our pastoral and rites of passage programs are evolving, with an emphasis on connecting to the land, character development, and integrating social-emotional learning through the CASEL framework (<https://casel.org/>). We are also excited to announce that Barkley, The Wellbeing Buddy dog, will become an active member of BDC in 2024, and we eagerly anticipate Mrs. O'Connor's integration of Barkley into the wellbeing program.

For your planning, please take note that the Year 11 Camp in 2024 will be held in Term 1, Week 6, commencing on the 4th of March.

Our commitment to learning and teaching priorities continues as we review and improve our strategies. We are focused on further embedding essential skills such as character development, critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, and citizenship, with a vision for the future. We have established a partnership with AISNSW for in-depth study of the Deep Learning Framework. Our staff will participate in ongoing professional development to enhance these transferable capabilities, which contribute to our digital credentialing program, Kaizen, World Options, career pathways, and learning and teaching initiatives.

We are pleased to announce that the 2025 Academic Scholarship applications are now open. Please visit our website for more information (<https://www.bdc.nsw.edu.au/news/principals-update-term-4-week-4-2>).

In conjunction with the NESA syllabus review and the rollout by the state government, our focus in 2024 will be on English, Mathematics, and Stage 6 technology. All Key Learning Areas will implement a revised curriculum from 2023, which will necessitate significant effort in developing these changes. Moreover, we anticipate the opening of our new Mathematics block and the recording studio in 2024, as well as the introduction of Entertainment and Agriculture Courses for Year 11.



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The transition to the "Off and Away" policy for personal devices such as phones, smart devices, and airpods has had a positive impact on student interactions during the day. We appreciate your support in implementing this change, which is now an integral part of our daily routines.

Our Performing Arts department celebrated significant successes this year with their performance dinner, and these achievements were also recognized at the annual Sport Awards Dinner. Our BDC Barracuda Sports Club is thriving, and our academies and High-Performance Programs are showing remarkable progress.

### **Staff Updates on the Secondary Campus**

Given our continuous growth in Year 11, we would like to inform you about some staff leave and movements for the start of 2024. We welcome back Ms. Teena Goodman as the Head of Faculty Visual Arts, and we have Mr. James Brown and Ms. Julie Bain sharing the role of Acting Head of Faculty English. Additionally, Mrs. Kate Law will be returning from leave to teach PDHPE part-time, and Ms. Melinda Eckford will return from leave to teach HSIE/REP part-time. Mr. Matthew Ryan, Mr. James Atkin, Mr. Alistair Smith will be teaching Science/REP, Mrs. Emma Turner, Mrs. Alisha Eden, Ms. Sheree Downs, Christian Dayment, Mrs. Rosey Lang will be teaching HSIE/REP/English, Mr. Adam Newman will be teaching TAS, Mr. Phil Atkinson will teach Mathematics part-time, Mrs. Prue Graham will serve as a Sport Assistant, Mrs. Melissa Atkinson will be involved in Learning Support, Ms. Janine Ryan will serve as a Careers Pathways Adviser, and Mrs. Leah Ham will continue as Acting Head of House for Cottee.

### **The Class of 2023**

We are proud to report that many of our Year 12 students have achieved success through TAFE, apprenticeships, and receiving early offers into universities, with over 70% of students securing these offers before the commencement of HSC examinations. This achievement underscores the BDC advantage, and we extend our gratitude to the local industry and work placement providers for their invaluable support, as well as our dedicated staff for guiding our students on their journey.

### **Uniform items for 2024**

For details regarding uniform requirements for 2024, please refer to our uniform code and guidelines. It is important to note the requirement of black polishable shoes, limited jewelry, adherence to moderate hair styles, and a prohibition on nose rings. Adhering to these guidelines will ensure that students begin the new year in 2024 on a positive note. House Shirts are now available and can be worn on Fridays.

### **Reports and Access to Parent Lounge and Student Café**

After the reports are published in Week 9, we kindly request that you download and save all reports, documents, and items by the 6th of December 2023. There will be IT upgrades and maintenance changes, and access will not be possible until late January.

We hope you can join us for the Christmas Service and our presentation assemblies in 2023. Please refer to the following page for key dates and activities for the end of the year and commencement dates for 2024. On behalf of our secondary staff, we wish our families a blessed and joy-filled Christmas.

Sincerely,

Sue Connor  
**Director of Student Wellbeing**

Craig Verbruggen  
**Director of Learning and Teaching**

Simon Doyle  
**Assistant Principal**



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2023 Week and Date	Year Level	Event
Week 6: Monday, 13 November	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus Day</li> </ul>
Week 6: Thursday, 16 November	Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anglican Schools Day</li> </ul>
Week 7: From 20 November, all week.	Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Experience, Mrs Driscoll, and Mrs Gudgeon</li> </ul>
Week 7: From 22nd November	Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer Support and Year 9 Rite of Passage Assembly and Mrs Bruggemann</li> </ul>
Week 8: 29th November	9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Options ACPE excursion for Elite Sport, Environment Group Field Trip</li> </ul>
Week 8: Friday 1 December	7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-school uniform day to support Cambodia sister school</li> </ul>
Week 8 Saturday 2 December	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cambodia immersion trip departs and Round Square International Tour to NZ</li> </ul>
Week 8-9	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPR updates for staff</li> </ul>
Week 9 Monday, 4 December	Years 7 to 12	<p>Monday -Secondary Presentation Assembly in the Branson Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friday 1 December Period 5 – Awards practice in the Branson Centre</li> <li>Monday 4 December – Awards Presentation Years 7 and 8 Awards are periods 1 and 2. Then a morning tea break. Years 9, 10 and 11 Awards are period 3 and 4.</li> <li>Normal school uniform (no sport uniform) to be worn to Presentation assembly.</li> <li>Students will have a normal roll call and then move to Branson Centre.</li> <li>Period 5 and 6 will be normal.</li> </ul>
Week 9: Wednesday 6 December	Years K to 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal roll call.</li> <li>9am students move to Branson Centre for K-12 Christmas Service.</li> <li>Period 3 to 6 KLA enrichment time.</li> <li>Last day of school for Year 10 students.</li> </ul>
Week 9: Thursday 7 December	Years 7 to 11 and Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll call in greenroom</li> <li>Secondary picnic at Boambee Bay reserve (please bring sunscreen, water bottle/food, appropriate swimwear, and clothes for the day)</li> <li>Last day of school for secondary students</li> <li>Last day for access to Parent Lounge, Student Café until late January</li> </ul>
Week 9: Friday 8 December	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Christmas service and Professional Learning Day</li> </ul>
Thursday 14 December	Year 12 Class of 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HSC and ATAR results released.</li> <li>Brunch for HSC Students tbc time by Mr Verbruggen</li> </ul>
Friday 15 December	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Front office closes for the holidays at 12pm</li> </ul>
<b>2024 Start of Year Key Dates</b>	<b>Year Level</b>	
2024: Monday 15 January	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Front Reception Opens</li> <li>Uniform shop opens Monday by appointments only <a href="mailto:bishop.drutt@midford.com.au">bishop.drutt@midford.com.au</a></li> </ul>
2024: Monday 22 January	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Staff onsite</li> </ul>
2024: Tuesday 23 January	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Staff Induction.</li> </ul>
2024: Wednesday 24 January	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff leadership teams and new staff.</li> </ul>
2024: Thursday 25 January	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff return, professional learning day. 8.15am Staff service.</li> </ul>
2024: Monday 29 January	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff professional learning</li> </ul>
2024: Tuesday 30 January, Week 1	K - Year 7/ Year 10 mentors/ Year 12 students return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day 2 on timetable - Years 7 and 12 along with Year 10 Peer Support students only commence on this day in the Branson Centre.</li> </ul>
2024: Wednesday 31 January	Years 8 to 11 return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day 3 on timetable. All students return to school on this day in the Branson Centre (7-12).</li> </ul>
2024: Week 2 and Week 3	Year 7 - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Photos – Wednesday 7 February (Week 2)</li> <li>Year 7 Camp - Week 3</li> <li>Year 11 Camp Week 6, 4th March</li> </ul>