



**Auburn Girls**  
HIGH SCHOOL

## Learn Lead Succeed

ISSUE 4 • DECEMBER 2020

## SEASON'S GREETINGS



Dear students, staff and parents of Auburn Girls High School,

2020 has presented each and every one of us with a series of new, unforeseen challenges which have completely transformed the entire world as we once knew it.

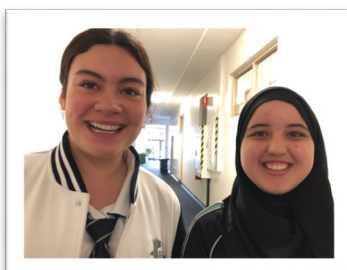
Accordingly, the way that Auburn Girls High School operated and currently operates has also immensely changed - significantly impacting the Auburn Girls High School Community in innumerable ways.

We would like to thank all of you for your heightened resilience and strength during these difficult times. Specifically, we would like to thank the students and our fellow peers for continuously striving to reach their personal best and their adherence to the school motto of 'Learn, Lead, Succeed'.

We would also like to thank the staff of Auburn Girls High School who have demonstrated outstanding leadership during these trying times, providing much needed guidance and support to all students. This has been especially true of our Principal, Deputy Principals and Executive members who have carried so much unexpected burden for our health and welfare.

Finally, we would like to thank the parents and local community for their enduring support of Auburn Girls High School.

Kind regards,



**Elody Gache**     **and**     **Rodah Elemam**  
**School Captain**     **Vice Captain**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Season's Greetings	1
Principal's Report	2-4
Deputy Principal's Report Years 7 & 8	5
Deputy Principal's Report Years 9 & 10	6
Deputy Principal's Report Years 11 & 12	7-8
School News	9-12
Important Dates	12
English/History	13-15
Technology & Applied Studies	16
Support Unit	17-18
Mathematics	19-21
PDHPE	22
Careers	23
Science	24
Library	25
Social Science	26
Parent Information	27

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

<https://auburng-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>



[auburng-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:auburng-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Hunter Street, Auburn NSW 2144

Phone: (02) 9649 6949 Fax: (02) 9749 1035

# Principal's Report

Dear Parents

What a year it has been! I am proud to say that we have to date, as a school and community, managed to navigate safely through 2020 and provide our girls with a safe, vibrant and enriching learning environment. As challenging as it has been our girls have learnt some incredible life lessons in resilience and perseverance that will stand them in good stead in their future.

A huge thank you to our parents for your patience, support and helping us keep our school covid safe. As a school, at all times we have followed the Departments of Education's rules with covid safe practices and access to the school to ensure our girls education is continues undisturbed. I thank parents for the times when we have had to conduct interviews in the park and answer your questions through the intercom.

It is with great sadness that we are conducting Graduation Assemblies and Presentation Day Assemblies with students and staff only and our parents are missing out on these joyous milestones events. Unfortunately the size our school hall does not allow for the social distancing requirements needed and external venues also lack the size requirements. I know some schools have allowed parents to see events digitally, however here, with the large number of students who cannot be photographed/videoed it is not feasible.

I am very much looking forward to 2021, when hopefully we can all return to a much appreciated normal!

## 2020 School Awards

This year we held our Presentation Day Award assemblies in Stages at school. It is with great pride that I congratulate our girls who received awards for academic success in their subjects and Special Awards for leadership, citizenship, personal best, school and community service, sport and the creative and performing arts.

It is also with will great pride that I congratulate our school's highest achievers and Dux for each year group. Each Dux has achieved the most first place academic awards in multiple subjects.

**Year 12 - Nosrat Fareha**  
**Year 11 - Rodah Elemam**  
**Year 10 - Roba Goreishi**

**Year 9 - Fabiha Iram**  
**Year 8 - Sarah Chaudhary**  
**Year 7 - Hiba Affan**

Congratulations to our girls and their parents for these outstanding achievements.

## Key dates for 2020



The last day for students is  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Office staff and Senior Executive  
will be at school on  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

School is closed on  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

## Key Dates for 2021

**Wednesday 27 January – School Development Day 1 for Staff**  
**Thursday – School Development Day 2 for Staff**

**Friday 29 January -- Year 7 first day of high school**  
**Friday 29 January – Years 11 & 12 return to school**  
**Monday 1 February – Years 8, 9 & 10 also return to school**

Year 7 students will assemble in the school hall at 8.45am  
All students in Years 8-12 will assemble in the quad at the start of Period 1 (8.45am) each day for a welcome back assembly, followed by a meeting with their Deputy Principal and Year Advisors.

**Thursday 16 December – last day for students and staff**  
**School closed – Friday 17 December**



## Farewell Year 12

Our Year 12 students have successfully completed their Higher School Certificate exams, graduated and enjoyed a wonderful formal. I have attached a copy of my Year 12 Graduation Assembly speech for parents. (See page 4)

They have also received an incredible number of early university offers before they even began their HSC exams. Many girls received multiple offers with **64** girls receiving a total of **192** offers.

University offers include:

- WSU 78
- MQU 45
- UNSW 15
- UTS 14
- ACU 13
- Notre Dame 10
- UOW 10
- ANU 4
- USYD 3

I hope that they look back with fondness at the time they have spent at Auburn GHS. I know they are well equipped to embrace life beyond school and to make a significant contribution to the future of their world. I wish our 2020 graduating students all the best for this next exciting phase of their lives.

From all of us at Auburn Girls, Year 12 we wish you success and happiness in all your future endeavours.



## Safe Holiday and Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents of Auburn Girls for their support of the school throughout the year. I am especially grateful to our P&C President Mrs Naila Imran, for her contribution to our school.

I would like to acknowledge our wonderful teachers, and staff at Auburn Girls who have continued to work tirelessly to support our students this year and made successes possible.

My thanks to all our dedicated and hardworking teachers who have taken on additional roles and responsibilities that provide our students with many amazing opportunities, curriculum, co-curriculum and wellbeing that make a well-rounded education.

Congratulations to students, staff, parents and our community for a wonderful and successful year.

I will be taking Long Service Leave for most of term 1 next year to enjoy being a new grandmother. Ms Diamond will be Relieving Principal for the first 5 weeks and Mr Marland for the next 4.

Merry Christmas, have a safe and relaxing holiday and see you in 2021!!!

***Anna Tsoutsas***  
***Principal***

## YEAR 12 GRADUATION SPEECH 2020

Our most wonderful Graduating Class of Year 12, Ms Diamond, Ms Matta, Ms Heemi, Mrs Amr, Ms Fagan, Ms K, teachers and students of Auburn GHS, I would like to wish you all a very warm welcome.

Every year the Year 12 Graduation is one of the most joyous events of my calendar. However, your graduation is extra special for me and it fills me with a great deal of pride to be sharing this celebration with you today. You are my first year group that arrived as Year 7 when I became Principal. I remember your bright eyed, smiling, rather timid, slightly nervous but above all excited & expectant faces. So yes, you are very special and dear to me.

There was no way of knowing on your first day in Year 7 that when you graduated in 2020 I would be so inspired by your resilience, tenacity and focus in the face of a global pandemic. I have watched you grow and mature during this time but especially over this year as you have grappled with an unprecedented situation that no other Year 12 cohort has had to face: completing your HSC during the covid pandemic, an extreme global crisis that has affected our nation in a way not seen since World War 2.

So this is finally it, my lovely girls, you have completed your studies at Auburn GHS. You are ready to enter a world full of promise and possibilities that are waiting for you. Like all disasters this pandemic will pass and I know you will thrive. You have shown us that you have developed many skills, attributes and the qualities of character that will allow you to be strong and courageous young women who lead successful lives.

You leave behind a community of students that have looked up to you, been inspired by you and your resilience, especially this year, and who will miss you. Each of you, in your own way, has contributed to the rich fabric of school life at Auburn Girls.

Year 12, I can tell you that no other group has ceaselessly preoccupied our thoughts, plans and discussions the way you have. There were many sleepless nights worrying about how we could best provide for your needs, your academic progress, wellbeing, your graduation and formal so you did not miss out on any of life's enriching experiences and rites of passage.

I now would like to acknowledge and thank the dedicated individuals who have worked side by side with me as a team over the years and shared the 2020 HSC challenges to ensure your safekeeping.

I thank our most wonderful teachers in their outstanding efforts in preparing you for your HSC. Year 12, you leave behind a group of teachers who have cared, watched over you and worked their hardest to ensure you receive the best education possible especially during your oh so very, very challenging HSC year. Your teachers have inspired you to think critically, problem solve and develop skills that will enable you to excel at University, with further study, in the workplace and in life. Thank you teachers.

I would like to thank your Year Advisers, Ms Fagan and Ms K who worked incredibly hard to always be there for you, encourage and nurture you through good times and bad. Thank you Ms Fagan and Ms K. To Ms Matta, our HT Wellbeing, for all your kindness, caring, support and hard work as part of the Yr 12 Team and of Year 12 over the years I would like to say thank you. To Mrs Amr, for her eternal patience and tireless work with our students, parents and community, thank you.

To Ms Heemi, our HT Secondary Studies/Careers Adviser extraordinaire a huge thank you. Our sincerest thanks for your work in supporting our students with their study choices and university entry applications. It is incredible to think that so many of you have already received entry to university before the HSC exams. In fact to date, 64 of you have received a total of 187 offers, the largest number in the history of our school and that makes you a pretty lucky cohort in my books! Thank you Ms Heemi for your tireless work.

I must thank your amazing Deputy Principal, Ms Diamond, who has done an incredible job in supporting, motivating and guiding each of you to achieve your very best. Like a mum she has always been close at hand and shared, the joy, laughter and tears. She has been your champion, your greatest supporter many times when you needed advice, help and sympathy. Thank you.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank your parents many of whom supported you in more ways than it's possible to count. We cannot achieve all that we do without their commitment in your education.

Throughout the past year, I have worked closely with our school Leadership Team including the Captains and Prefects. They have been a very impressive team and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great work of our Captain Safiya, Vice Captain Nancy, our Sport Captain Catherine and the entire team of Prefects; Nosrat, Maya, Isabelle, Zagawar, Ece, Sahera, Anoushay and Saima. They have been outstanding role models and great ambassadors for our school during very challenging and often frustrating times. Each of our leaders has worked with dignity and respect, serving to further improve our school community.

In Closing Year 12, as a school, we are very proud of the strength of character, grit and tenacity that you have shown.

A great adventure awaits you all as you go from the safety and cocoon of AGHS to one where you are far more at liberty to make choices. Regardless of what your endeavours may be, the future is yours to take advantage of, to make a difference and to understand what great opportunities there are for the taking.

Enjoy each day! Live extraordinary lives that benefit yourselves and others. Look to do good and make a positive difference to your communities. Be that person who makes good things happen.

I wish you the very best of luck in the pursuit of your dreams and goals. It is both a daunting and exciting time of your life but I am very confident that as Auburn Girls you will continue to learn, lead, succeed and inspire the same in others.

Congratulations Year 12.



# Deputy Principal's Report – Years 7 and 8

As 2020 comes to an end we celebrate the achievements of all students. This year has presented so many unexpected challenges. It is with great pride that I acknowledge how well our students have managed this year. Throughout the year we have witnessed our year 7 and 8 students demonstrating resilience, flexibility and perseverance. These are skills that will benefit our students immensely in the future and they are all to be congratulated for managing the year so well.

Having just finished our formal examination period, I have had the pleasure of reading Academic Reports and noting how students have improved their results since Semester 1. I encourage parents to focus on improvement when discussing the Academic Reports with their children and develop achievable goals for students to work towards.

Term 4 has been a busy term, as expected. As well as our teaching and learning programs, we have had enjoyed a range of internal activities including drumming, NAIDOC celebrations, Presentation Day and Year 7 Orientation Day. Although these events were a little different from previous years, they were valuable additions to our classroom learning and we are grateful to our school community for their ongoing support.

Finally, congratulations to all our award recipients at Presentation Day.

This formal assembly recognises the highest achievements in all year groups in the areas of academics, sport and leadership and citizenship. It was a special occasion and all students involved conducted themselves exceptionally well.



**Jennifer Minogue**  
*Deputy Principal*  
*Years 7 & 8*



# Deputy Principal's Report – Years 9 and 10

As this extraordinary school year comes to an end, I would like to thank all staff, students, parents and members of the school community for continuing to show resilience and work hard to produce some wonderful results and achievements. I wish everybody a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

## Year 10

All of Year 10 have now chosen their subjects for Year 11 and have been issued the list of subjects they were placed in for 2021. Please ensure you refer to the subject requirements for each of these subjects for 2021.

In week 8 of this term, Year 10 participated in two study skills sessions conducted by presenters from Elevate Study Skills. The sessions were named Study Sensei and Time Management. The students were all engaged and actively participated in the sessions which included workbooks for all of the students to keep.

### TERM 4 MERITS

#### Year 9

##### **White Merit Badge**

Joyce Zhang  
Alishba Khan  
Hiba Rana  
Aysha Obeid  
Muneeba Khan

##### **Bronze Merit Badge**

Shafiqah Karimi  
Alishba Khan  
Zohara Kazimie  
Chloe Chan

##### **Silver Merit Badge**

Tasnim Sarah  
Alice Chan

##### **School Medallion**

Areebah Haq

#### Year 10

##### **Silver Merit Badge**

Aysha Vohra

##### **School Medallion**

Safiyyah Khan



*Above: Year 10 Dux – Roba Goreishi*

## Year 9

In week 7, all of Year 9 participated in Peer Support training. This was a fantastic day where students had the opportunity to think and act creatively and as part of a team. The students who displayed excellent teamwork and leadership capabilities were chosen to part of the Peer Support program.

As students move in to the second phase of Stage 5 next year they are reminded that forming good study habits and applying themselves to their work at school in Year 10 is the best preparation for success in Year 11 and 12.

As you can see from the list of Merit Badges and Medallions received left, Year 9 have displayed many examples of positive behaviour throughout the year and have been suitably rewarded through our Positive Merit System.



*Above: Year 9 Dux, Fabiha Iram*

Each stage of the Merit system requires 20 Principal Awards.

The stages are;

*White Merit Badge  
Bronze Merit Badge  
Silver Merit Badge  
Gold Merit Badge  
School Medallion and  
School Plaque.*

**Craig Marland  
Deputy Principal  
Years 9 & 10**



# Deputy Principal's Report - Years 11 and 12

2020 has been quite a testing year for most students let alone the Year 12 2020 cohort. I would like to especially congratulate Year 12 on their resilience, positivity and determination while completing the Higher School Certificate.

I hope that the girls all achieved the results that they worked so hard for and that they are all able to move into the future study pathways and careers they had spent the years working towards.

Due to COVID-19 the Year 12 Graduation was held after the Higher School Certificate Examinations and although parents did not attend the event itself was beautiful and truly highlighted the unique characteristics of the students of Year 12 2020.



The Year 12 Formal which was held the following evening was a fun celebration of 13 years of schooling.

Year 11 students on the other hand have just started their Higher School Certificate journey. They have now completed one whole term of the Year 12 course work and many of their first assessment tasks. A big highlight for the year for these students was the Wellbeing Excursion to Manly where they got to spend the end of the term reminiscing about the challenges they faced and set goals with their peers for 2021.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the following students for reaching the forth tier of our Positive Behaviour Reward initiative. Their reward was a morning tea with our Principal and receiving the Rose Gold Badge.

### Year 7

Baneen Al Macdadi  
Melak Al-Hameed  
Sameera Ali  
Yamsha Beig Ali  
Samantha Chow  
Dania Ghuneim  
Bella Guan  
Leda Guan  
Wendy Huang  
Efthimia Kapetangiannis  
Saba Kauser  
Raina Khan  
Ganga Kumar  
Erika Kuo  
Fiona Luong  
Tsawm Tsawm Maran  
Lani McGrath  
Zahra Naim  
Zaynab Naim  
Bo-Hae Nguyen  
Erica Tamang  
Jeanny Vo  
Dorothy Zhang

### Year 9

Sarah Ayoub  
Alice Chan  
Chloe Chan  
Rachel De Padua  
Fatima Jafari  
Lauren Nguyen  
Leeanne Nguyen  
Anita Singh  
Angela Wong

### Year 8

Najiya AFNAN  
Doa'a AL MACDADI  
Hana BARAHMEH  
Sarah CHAUDHARY  
Stella CHOW  
Huda FAHEEM  
Sirat FATIMA  
Maryam HADI  
Maria HIDARI  
Fatima IMRAN  
Mariam KAMARA  
Jamie LE  
Tammy MATHESON  
Asna MOHAMMED  
Simran NAJAFI  
Tabina TAJ  
Ameline WONG

### Year 10

Sharona Ta  
Kylia Le  
Cecilia Do  
Marwah Tanveer  
Latifa Hakimi

### Year 11

Saumya Amin  
Rodah Elemam  
Nargis Hafezi  
Sondos Hamze  
Melissa Ho  
Tanzeela Idris  
Rahat Mian  
Layla Obeid  
Tahmina Rahimy

The Senior cohort would not be so marvellous without their absolutely fabulous Year Advisers Ms Khairallah (Yr 12) and Ms Young (Yr 11) and the Wellbeing Team which includes Ms Matta and Ms Heemi. The year groups are truly lucky to have such a caring and compassionate team looking after them.

Finally, I wish you all a very peaceful, relaxing and safe break. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Belinda Diamond**  
**Deputy Principal**  
**Years 11 & 12**

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

### September 2020

**Doa'a Al Macdadi, Year 8** is a highly motivated, compassionate & gracious member of the Year 8 cohort. She is a positive role model who strives towards achieving her personal best within all her subject areas. Doa'a consistently demonstrates the core school values to Learn, Lead and Success through her diligence with class tasks and learning activities, to her regularly involved extracurricular activities and lunchtime sport. Doa'a is always ready and willing to offer assistance and will not rest till those around her are happy and smiling too.

### October 2020

**Ganga Kumar, Year 7** is a motivated and hardworking student who strives to achieve her best in all aspects of her schooling. She shows confidence in her ability to express herself and takes pride in her work. Her positive attitude towards her learning and eagerness to achieve has seen her gain the Rose Gold Level 3 Award for her consistent and outstanding attendance and always wearing her school uniform. Additionally she also attained the White Merit Bar accumulating 20 Principals Gold Awards, one of the few students to have done so this year. She is to be congratulated on achieving student of the month for October.

### November 2020

**Cecilia Do, Year 10** has displayed a proactive and positive attitude towards her studies in every subject area. She is highly praised by her teachers as being a dedicated and hardworking student. She attempts difficult tasks and consistently challenges herself. She has shown maturity when interacting with both her peers and teachers. Cecilia is a key contributor to Auburn Girls High School and absolutely loves playing sports. We would like to congratulate Cecilia for her diligence.



# School News

## Pink Ribbon Day

Thank you for your support for Pink Ribbon Fundraiser on 16.10.20. Due to COVID restrictions and Year 12 working towards sitting their HSC, we had to have a simple fundraiser. I am proud to say that in 40 minutes, Auburn Girls HS raised \$360.

Once again, thank you for your support!!

**Noura Mahmoud**  
*English/History Teacher*



## Debating 2020

Congratulations to all our debate teams this year. We had the unique experience of debating over Zoom rather than in front of an audience. Our girls handled the changes brilliantly. All teams managed to win at least one debate this year, with our year 7 and 10 teams making it to the finals.

Special mention must go to our Year 10 team who made it through five rounds of a state-wide competition before finally being knocked out by Sydney Girls High School. This placed our school in the top 16 in the state out of over 200 teams.

A special thanks to Ms Rao who has been part of the coaching team for the last three years, who will be leaving the school at the end of the year. Her expertise played a big role in developing the year 10 team.

**Peter Bailey**  
*English/History Teacher*



# School News

## Year 10 Child Studies

This year has presented a number of challenges for both students and teachers. However, for the subject Child Studies it has provided the opportunity to integrate both the theory of the subject into practical application in the classroom and observations at home.

From rescuing Egg Babies from destructive siblings to creating Recycled, Upcycled or Reusable Toys, our students have demonstrated their ingenuity, creativity and resourcefulness. Throughout our most recent Unit of Play and the Developing Child, students have experienced the various domains of play through making and experimenting with playdough, sock puppets, nature play masks/crowns and designing a risky play playground. All these experiences and more have been reflected on in their Play Journal, providing an invaluable resource to rely on when undertaking future employment in this industry. In Year 10 Child Studies will provide opportunities for our students to investigate nutritional needs of children, the influence of the media and technology, impact of culture, childcare services and careers opportunities.

Please ensure that if you undertake this subject that you pay your course fees so the appropriate resources can be bought to enhance your learning experiences.

*Rebecca Woods*  
*PDHPE Teacher*



**Nature Play  
Masks and Crowns**



**Above & Below:  
Revealed Toy Photos**



**Above: Musical Item**



# School News

## Community Participation and Engagement

### "Paint Town ReAD"

Auburn Girls HS in partnership with the Auburn Diversity Centre, Cumberland Council conducted the annual early intervention reading program "Paint Town ReAD" on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The goal of the program is promoting early reading among the community. Every year we invite all local childcare centres and play groups to be part of the day. Everyone meets in the morning at Auburn Town Hall, then they are divided into small groups to walk along Auburn Road. AGHS students read to pre-schoolers and pages of stories are displayed on shop windows.

This year our student's participation has been done differently due to COVID-19. Our school captain Elody led the program through zoom and our Year 10 student Dahilia played the guitar to participating toddlers while they were singing. Overall the program was a great success and we are excited to participate again next year, hopefully in person.



### Always Was, Always Will Be

Our students celebrated NAIDOC week with Aunty Clonie teaching them the Making of Traditional Jewellery through Zoom.

Through this time our students learnt valuable information about our local Aboriginal culture and history.

*Fatima Amr*  
*Community Partnership Officer*



## Peer Support

On Thursday 26 November 2020, Year 9 students took part in the Peer Support training Program. During the day, the students learnt and discussed qualities of positive leadership and participated in various activities which were designed to showcase their leadership abilities.



After the training, the Year 9 students were invited to apply to be a Peer Support Leader for 2021.

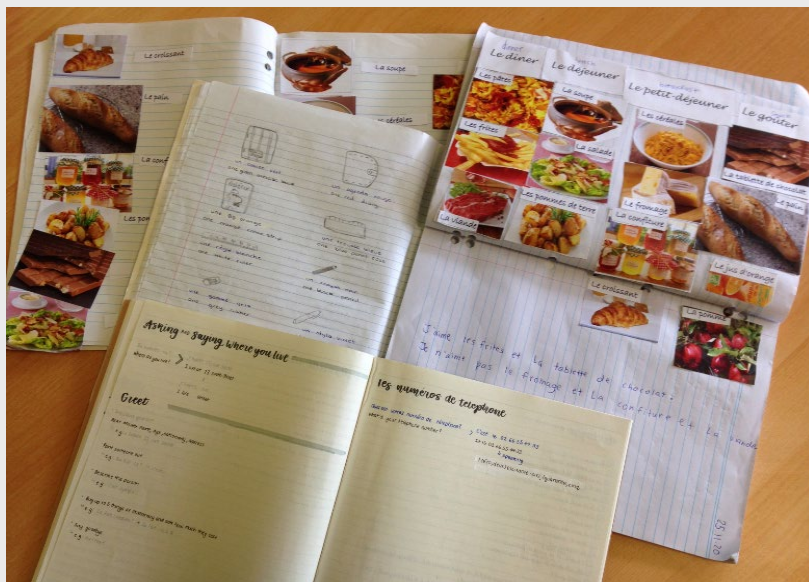


On Tuesday 2 December 2020, the selected Peer Support Leaders ran the meet & greet for the 2021 Year 7 students. During the day they taught the new students about what to expect in Year 7, where they can locate different facilities at school and they also ran games with the students to help them bond with their new peers.

**Georgia Rowe**  
Student Support Officer

## Lote Faculty - Year 8 French

French exercise books, excellent work by students  
**Najiya Afnan, Sajah Alameddine, Zeazawar Lwin**



## IMPORTANT DATES

### TERM 4 / 2020

#### WEEK 10

**16 December 2020**

Last day of Term 4

### TERM 1 / 2021

#### WEEK 1 (A Week)

**27 & 28 January 2021**

Staff Development Day

**29 January 2021**

Years 7, 11 & 12 return

**1 February 2021**

Years 8, 9 & 10 return

#### WEEK 3

**10 February 2021**

Year 7 Parent Information  
Afternoon via Zoom

**12 February 2021**

Swimming Carnival

#### WEEK 6

**3 March 2021**

Zone Swimming Carnival

**5 March 2021**

Year 7 Vaccinations

#### WEEK 7

**9 March 2021**

International Woman's Day  
Assembly

#### WEEK 9

**24 March 2021**

Harmony Day Afternoon

#### WEEK 10

**31 March 2021**

Cross Country Carnival

**1 April 2021**

Last day of Term 1

# English/History Faculty

As this year draws to a close with its many challenges, it gives me great pleasure to report that our girls have overcome all obstacles with great success! Congratulations to our students who displayed resilience and a great commitment to their learning throughout the year.

I'm also pleased to mention the wonderful work completed by our girls in the English/History/Drama Faculty. Our girls produced artwork reflective of their engagement with the poetic study of "Woman of the Future" and composed their own poems based on the concepts presented in the poem. Most fitting for 2020.

Students also engaged with the complex study of Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" and represented the key thematic concerns in a series of detailed and original visuals.

Students also produced highly engaging and original creative pieces, as well as structured and informed persuasive texts, supported by evidence and examples from the studied texts.

I also had the pleasure of witnessing student performances in Drama, where commitment and talent as well as dedication were evident. Well done girls.

I congratulate the students and the staff and wish all a wonderful, well-deserved holiday.

**Ms S Schweibert**  
*Relieving Head Teacher, English/History*

## Year 8 English

In class we read "The fall of the House of Usher" by Edgar Allan Poe.

The students transformed scenes from the story into comic form, using their artistic skills to recreate the story's fearful atmosphere!

**Right:** House of Usher comic by  
Hana Barahmeh, Year 8

### Poem by Layla Obeid

*It is always Darkest Before the Dawn  
It is always darkest before the dawn  
you do your exam- then you mourn  
"I did not do well" you have sworn  
but do wait for the light of dawn*

*Your exams-when they are all done  
think of the moon, mist, rain and sun  
Of luminous, lovely light  
and of the twilight  
-sparkling through the night*

*Now, do forget the past  
for surely,  
the darkness does not last*

*Shine light in every shadow  
and, skip in every meadow*

*Let the darkness go away  
and smile,  
in every passing day*

*It is always darkest before the dawn  
you do your exam- and all the weight you have borne  
will all fall  
as you think of roses, silver and Mountain Walls*



**Above:** Kubra's artwork for  
"Woman of the Future" poem

## Year 10 English

Students in Ms Young and Ms Nolan's Year 10 English classes collaborated on a project about the poem. 'Woman of the Future'. After studying the themes and literary techniques, they rewrote their own versions then produced an artwork of an important symbol.

**Ms Young & Ms Nolan**  
**English/History Teachers**

### Yemen Agha- Women of the future

I'm a child  
I'm all the things of my past  
I am all the warmth of my mother  
I am all the stubbornness of my father  
I'm the target of my brothers!

I am all I see,  
The two strongest and most loving people  
The loneliness of my bed without me  
The movies and shows that create a roller coaster of emotions  
The one and only Harry Styles

I am all I hear,  
"Don't do that, your younger siblings and cousins look up to you!"  
My anger and frustration surging from the midst of my body  
my neighbours saying good morning every day  
My music that has helped me block out the world

I am all I feel and taste,  
The food of my culture dancing around in my mouth  
The goose bumps when I feel cold, excited, or scared  
The disgusting food on planes  
The light rain drops on my face

I am all I remember,  
My grandmother's great hugs and advice  
Strangers who have now become my friends  
Running around with my neighbours until the sun set  
The thorns poking me when I tried to steal their beauty  
Sleepovers and whispering all night till the birds woke up  
Switching my whole life to a different country then back again  
People coming and going, life it's a journey

I am all I've been taught,  
'Have' not 'got'  
Thank you and please  
One day you will treasure these memories  
Respect your elders they say  
You will thank me one day  
The earth is what we all have in common  
Look after it and don't let it go to waste

I am all I think,  
My secrets, thoughts and emotions like a treasure chest of gold  
All hidden under a smile  
My dreams that last a while  
I'm like a newborn  
These things are my swaddle  
Just wait until I come out  
Because  
I am  
the woman of the present and  
the woman of the future.



### Gauri Kumar - Woman of the Future

I am child  
I am the brown eyes from my mother's eyes  
I am the dedication of my dad  
I am all I see,  
Gods and goddesses adorned with marigolds  
all around  
Bharatanatyam dancers dancing everywhere  
The homework that lays piled up on my table

I am all I hear,  
Wind blowing the trees in the park  
Mum yelling, "come on in, it's getting dark."  
"It's time to pray girls."  
"Don't run, you'll fall over."

I am all I feel and taste,  
Indian dress fabric poking my skin  
The discomfort in my little feets from walking  
miles up to temples  
The curry that I eat  
The spice that my tongue greets

And all I remember,  
Waves crashing down on the shore  
Where I would run away when freezing water  
meet my toes

I am all I have been taught,  
Always speak the truth and never to be afraid  
Stranger Danger  
Because  
I'm the the women of the future



## Rose Alameddine – Woman of the Future

I am a child  
I am all the things of my past  
I am the height of my father  
I am the laziness of my mother  
Taking rest on the couch

I am all I see  
Boys fooling around in the streets  
Girls giggling in the aisles of shops  
I, at my mother's side  
Social media, the new future  
Worrying about looks  
Worrying about image  
A world almost at its end  
I am all I hear  
'Look after him, you're his sister'  
'Come wash the dishes'  
'Stop complaining'  
I am all I feel and taste  
The course pen rubbing on my joint  
Slippery, mopped floors  
Muddy grass  
The warm taste of my mother's soup  
And the refreshing sip of water  
And all I remember  
The necklace around my neck given from my  
uncle's hand  
The forgotten laugh of my grandfather  
My best friend gone  
And being lost in a world of forgotten  
memories  
I am all I've been taught  
'Don't get involved'  
'Use your right foot only'  
I am all I think  
Worries.  
Secrets.  
My future.  
I am all these things.  
I am like a baby deer  
And all these things are my spots  
But one day they'll fade  
And I'll grow  
Because  
I'm the woman of the future.



**Above:** Rose's representation

**Below:** Tugba's representation



# Technology & Applied Studies

## Year 9 Food Technology / Birthday Cakes

This term in Year 9 Food Technology students have been studying the unit 'Food for Celebrations'. They have been learning about the role that food plays in celebrations and events and also how different cultures use foods in their traditions. Below are some of the amazing birthday cakes the students have created.

*Elisea Pace*



'Harry Potter' themed cake by Israh Elrich and Yasemen Uzdilli



'Beach' themed cake by Ashley Ketuu and Melepalu Ketuu



'Frozen' themed cake by Sharvanna Ali and Bushra Shakil



'Cookie Monster' themed cake by Mariam Zeidan, Wasila Zeidan, Sarah Zou and Yusra Zoud



'Race car' themed cake by Attiqa Ali, Isra Ismail, Hiba Maricar and Sahla Salam



'PJ Masks' themed cake by Annisa Elcheikh and Reihaneh Bayani



# Support Faculty

It's hard to believe that we are already in Term 4, 2020! The year has gone so quickly, but we still have so many items on our school calendar as we count down to Christmas and the New Year.

Year 7 are almost at the end of their first year of their secondary schooling and I would like to commend them for their, generally, positive behaviour and diligent approach towards their studies. I am looking forward to seeing them next year with the same enthusiastic, positive attitude towards their learning.

The Support Unit staff would like to say a big CONGRATULATIONS and well done on completing the HSC to the Year 12 Support Unit students of 2020. Also an enormous thank you to all the staff, Teachers and School Learning Support Officers who supported our students during their schooling years, and of course an extra special thank you to the families that have been there for their daughters through the entire journey at Auburn Girls High School, providing love and care to ensure our students have been able to focus on their learning, ability and doing their very best.



*Above: Year 12, 2020 Graduation*



*Life skills: Mini pizza making*

In addition, students regularly took part in social skill sessions, both in class as part of the teaching and learning programs and also informally through targeted social skill goals.

Through this hard year due to Covid -19 our students didn't engage regularly in a range of learning opportunities in the local area. However, we created some programs for students to attend at school such as in school work experience program, sport and recreation activities to allow students to develop more work and social skills.

Students engaged in a range of technologies that support their learning and prepare students for life after school. The support unit uses computers, iPads, and many web-based programs in a range of curriculum areas.







*Above: Saja & Eman with their Awards on Presentation Day*

On Orientation day we had Year 6 support students from different primary schools, they were involved in showcasing of all the wonderful things they get to study when they come to high school. I am very proud of all the students who helped make it successful and believe they were all excellent role models for our future Year 7 cohort.

Finally, I would like to wish all students and their families' a safe and enjoyable holiday and look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

**Amany Saleh**  
**Head Teacher Support**

In Years 11 and 12 students had the opportunity to complete a HSC (Higher School Certificate) subject called "Work and Community".

This subject develops a range of skills and knowledge important for life after school, and also students had the opportunity to plan for post school transition which takes place with the assistance of Mrs McShane our transition teacher.



*Below: Eman pottery work making an owl*



# Mathematics Faculty

## Maths Factor

**2020** is a special year where the first two digits are the same as the last two digits like 1616, 1717, 1818 and 1919. This happens only once in a century, so it is a once in a lifetime event.

As a faculty we have worked together collaboratively and have experienced another successful year of teaching and learning during this special year. Students are happier to be learning back at school.

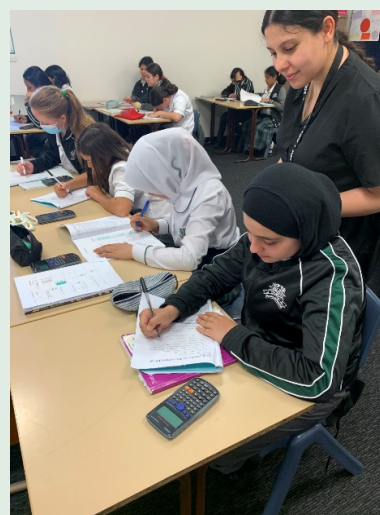
**Right** is a bird's eye view of what I saw when I made a surprise visit into our Mathematics classes recently.



**Above:** 7W doing a hands-on practical activity to assist with the understanding of ratio and rates

**Right:** Mrs Semaan's 7MATG class is working mathematically by doing a problem solving activity on Ratio and Rates in their exercise books.

Well done to all the students who were awarded with a positive merit for outstanding bookwork.



**Left:** Ms Nguyen's 8MATG class doing an independent interactive computer lesson on Ratios through Maths Online.

\* Students are accessing an online learning platform which is funded by the school

The class was engaged and asking questions as Ms Nguyen went around and helped students individually. This allows students to consolidate their understanding and learning as they can work at their own pace and catch up or extend themselves on work covered in class.





**Left:** Mr Al-Khalidy's 8MATB class have been engaged in designing and building their dream house using Department of Education virtual reality software Minecraft.

Students used their knowledge and skills of Geometry to design and built a fully functioning house. Students were given the option to work independently or work collaboratively in pairs.



I was honoured to judge the winners and was impressed to see how creative some of the dream house designs were. Feedback and recommendations were issued to all students on how to improve their designs. Well done to the winners: **Enece Ajaj, Mariam Kaka, Chiara Whiunui and Zara Mukhi.**

**Below:** Some of the amazing Mathematics teachers of MMXX



**Above** Mr Kim's 7MATE class doing an extension activity on Ratios.



## Year 12, 2020

Below is our Year 12 2020 Mathematics Classes: Wishing the class of 2020 the best for their futures. They may have left but will not be forgotten. I am looking forward to receiving their Higher School Certificate results in 2 weeks.



I would like to wish all our students, parents and staff a well-deserved and safe break and look forward to seeing you all back in 2021. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have concerns regarding your daughter and her learning of Mathematics.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Fidanboy**  
**Head Teacher Mathematics**



# PDHPE Faculty

## Volleyball Mini-Comp

Our Year 10 Volleyball girls just keep getting better and better!

A huge congratulations goes out to the following girls who were victorious in the Year 10 Girls Volleyball Local Schools Mini-Comp at Sydney Olympic Park on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Valerie Bailey**  
**Cecilia Do**  
**Grace Lahtaw**  
**Thakshana Suresh**

**Yumi Cailloce**  
**Dehlia Kawlila**  
**Ramsha Siddiqua**  
**Sharona Ta**

The hard work and determination these girls have put into their training has been truly remarkable and it definitely showed in their skill level and teamwork.



Throughout the competition we played against Pymble Ladies College, Willoughby Girls, North Sydney Girls and Sydney Girls. We remained undefeated for all of our games and faced Sydney Girls again in the Final. The consistency of Thakshana and Ramsha's overarm serves was impressive, while the explosive jumps of Cecilia when spiking and serving was too much for them to handle, Grace's blocks at the net kept us in front, while Dehlia's dive for the ball made sure every point counted, Valerie and Sharona's digs set us up for victory and Yumi's leadership and tactical plays were inspiring. Auburn Girls High School were crowned the champions, winning 2 straight sets.

Well done girls, you should all be extremely proud!

**Miss Fagan**  
**Head Teacher PDHPE**





---

# Careers

## Year 12, 2020

What an amazing finish to the year! Our Year 12 cohort are to be congratulated on their incredible resilience and dedicated application to study. Thankfully, we were able to hold all our exams onsite, without the need to use any of the alternative arrangements we had prepared in case of an enforced shutdown. We were very impressed with the reasonably calm approach the girls had to each exam – they were well prepared and focused on doing their best.

As predicted, many more university early offers have been made based on students' Year 11 results and School Recommendations. Currently, we have **192 offers for 64 students!**

47 girls have received more than one early offer (in some cases, up to 8 or 9) with only a small proportion of those conditional upon a minimum ATAR – most are theirs simply by completing HSC. Western Sydney and Macquarie Universities continue to offer the majority of places, with other institutions due in the coming months. Currently, our offers tally

WSU 78  
UTS 14  
UOW 10

MQU 45  
ACU 13  
ANU 4

UNSW 15  
Notre Dame 10  
USYD 3

Students are reminded to **check the closing dates with UAC for changing preferences** in order to maximise their total offers. Once an offer is officially accepted, the course can be removed from their preference list to make room for another. In late February, students will then be able to choose which course they want to formally enrol in to commence their studies in March.

NB: **Make sure all other offers are officially withdrawn/unaccepted** so that students are not charged fees for multiple courses.



---

## Year 10

Year 10 All My Own Work workshops will take place on Wednesday 2 December. This is a mandatory course required by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) prior to commencing Preliminary HSC studies. Students will explore the key principles of good scholarship, including how to avoid plagiarism, acknowledge sources correctly and how to work effectively with others in group tasks. Students who are absent on the day will be given the opportunity to catch up with Ms Heemi on another day before the end of the year.

Information for parents regarding good academic practice and other helpful tips to support your daughter through HSC is available on NESA's website:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/learning/tests-and-exams/hsc-help/parents>

Wishing you all a very well-earned rest over the summer break.

*Donna Heemi*  
*Careers Adviser/Rel. HT Secondary Studies*

# Science

## Volcanoes - Year 9 Science!

This term, 9SCI4 has been working on 'The Changing Earth' programme with the science intern teacher, Ms. Garcia.

After speaking with the class, many of the girls said that their favourite part of the topic was learning about plate tectonics, natural disasters and volcanoes.

In weeks 5 and 6, the girls worked in groups to create paper maché volcanoes, which they painted and made into works of art!



*"I really enjoyed learning about volcanoes, how eruptions happen and watching the documentaries about natural disasters"* – **Roudania**

*"I had fun learning about how tectonic plates move and how different types of movement causes things like volcanoes and earthquakes to happen"* – **Rawa**

*"My favourite lessons were the ones where we got to paint our volcanoes!"* – **Maram**





# Library

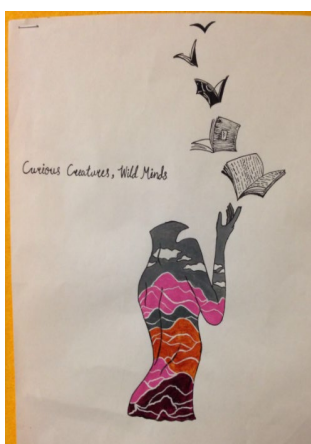
Our Year 12 student Sharon Diep enjoyed spending time in the library creating all kinds of animals using paper craft. Each piece was made of hundreds of tiny folded pieces of paper that needed to be glued one by one. Many staff have been very lucky to receive one of these beautiful artworks as a gift from Sharon. Thank you Sharon!



This term the library has purchased many new books, continued to support the Lexile reading program and run a Book Club.

Congratulations to the students who completed the Premier's Reading Challenge 2020. All students who completed the PRC will receive PRC certificates and a Principal's Gold Award. Well done to everyone who participated.

**Poster by  
Fatima Sohrabi**



Fatima Sohrabi described what her poster represents: A Book is a dream that you hold in your hands. Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are.

Layla Obeid explained the meaning of her poster: In this poster, the girl reading a book continuously discovers new creatures, which flourish in her ever-growing imagination, the knowledge of which she will apply to life. On the other hand, the person struggling and clinging onto his imagination (imaginary bird) is near to losing his imagination due to the lack of reading fiction books. This poster speaks of the significant effect reading has on a person and hopefully encourages more people to grab a book from a shelf!

**Ms Park  
Librarian**

**Library book Display**



**Group of Posters**



This term we also celebrated the Book Week theme 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds'. Winners of the poster competition were

**1<sup>st</sup> place equal:** Aysha Obeid & Sidiqa Sohrabi

**2<sup>nd</sup> place equal:** Layla Obeid & Fatima Sohrabi

**3<sup>rd</sup> place equal:** Saba Kauser & Areebah Haq

Congratulations to all participants. All winners won a Dymocks book voucher and a Principal's Gold Award.



**Layla & Aysha Obeid**



**Above: Year 7 students Saba Kauser,  
Manahil Saood and Afiah Asadullah**

# Social Science



## Naidoc Week

Thank you all who participated in the NAIDOC Week Social Sciences Colouring-in Competition. Well done to all our entrants plus our 3 winners

**Helen Piatek      Ganga Kumar      Anisha Uddin**

Congratulations to all the students who submitted an artwork.

*Natasha Craig,  
Head Teacher Social Science*





# Parent Information

## Study Skills Newsletter tip for November

When a student says that they have a bad memory, it usually means that actually they do not encode the information they are trying to remember into their memory in an effective way. Memory is really a 'process' as opposed to a 'thing' in your head that you are born with.

Rather than 'improving your memory', you want to improve the process of memory creation to ensure memory retrieval goes smoothly! The reason why many students do not retain what they are learning is that the way they study only gets the information as far as their short term memory, and then before long it is forgotten instead of being encoded into long term memory.

The first stage for students in improving their retention of information is to try and find ways to make what they are learning INTERESTING to themselves, EMOTIONAL, ENJOYABLE and if they can't do this then at least create the firm INTENTION to remember the information. It is all about their approach to what they are learning.

The next step in memory creation is the encoding process. To improve in this area, students need to improve:

- CONCENTRATION AND FOCUS (making notes about what they are learning, studying using techniques that suit their learning style, studying when they are most alert)
- ORGANISATION OF MATERIAL (making brain friendly notes: lists, highlighting, categories, grouping, and graphics)
- MAKING ASSOCIATIONS AND LINKS between the new material and previously learned material.

Next stage in the memory process is facilitating the storage of memories. Students can improve the way memories are stored by ensuring they BREAK THEIR STUDY BLOCKS UP with at least a few minutes break every half hour (giving the brain a chance to encode and file that chunk of content) and CHUNK DOWN the information to be learnt into manageable chunks. Getting enough SLEEP is also essential as fundamental memory processes take place during sleep. The other thing that is really important in this stage is REPETITION AND REGULAR REVIEW. Each time a review takes place the brain fires all the neurons connected to that memory and the more often that happens the stronger the connections between the neurons and the more intense and powerful the memory that is created.

So in summary, the top three things to improve the process of creating powerful memories are:

- i) Focus, positive attitude and intention to remember are essential (reading something half-heartedly while bored pretty much guarantees it won't be retained)
- ii) An active approach to learning where students are 'doing' (making notes, testing themselves using a wide range of study techniques) rather than just 'reading'
- iii) Repetition and constant review of the material over a period of time.

To learn more about the brain and memory and advanced memory techniques visit the Brain and Memory unit on [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) (Click on the For Students tab).

Our school's subscription details are;

**Username: auburngirls**

**Password: 88achieve**



## MAKING ONLINE PAYMENTS

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa, MasterCard, Credit or Debit card, and can be made via computer, tablet or mobile phone. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting:

**"MAKE A PAYMENT"** from the taskbar at the top of the page, right hand side.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called 'Other' this to cover items not covered in the previous headings. 'Other' can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system.

There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields **OR** there is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number these are not used at our school, please leave blank.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your Credit/Debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.

When you access the **"\$ Make a payment"** you must enter:

- the students name, and class and reference number **OR**
- the students name, and date of birth