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2 March 2023

## Principal Report



Happy new year and welcome back to school for 2023.

A special welcome to our Year 11 students and their families. It was also wonderful to welcome back our Year 12 students who were keen to start their final three terms of secondary schooling.

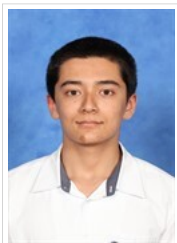
Transitioning to a new school is not always easy but Year 11 have taken it in their stride and were focused, attentive and ready to start a new year in a new and different environment.

## Year 12 HSC Results

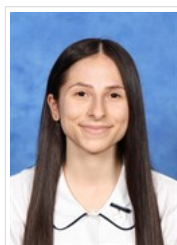
Congratulations to our outgoing Year 12's. They worked extremely hard to ensure that they achieved their HSC credential. There is an expectation that we will do well, that our students will be stretched and challenged and that our teachers will do their very best ..... and more to assist students in realising their potential.

### Highlights from the 2022 HSC included:

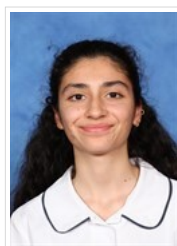
- Dux of Year 12 – Justin Radcliffe



- Top Achievers List: Anastasia Karatasoulis for Modern Greek Beginners - 5th in the State



- Top Achievers List: Ezgi Ulker for Turkish Continuers - 4th in the State



- 55 students were named on the HSC Distinguished Achievers list.
- Top 2 bands (Bands 5 and 6) – 399 bands awarded.
- 3 Major Works Excellence Nominations
  - \* Sophie Tsoitoudis OnSTAGE selection for Individual Performance 'A Thousand Words for Snow'
  - \* Robin Bedward OnSTAGE nomination for Individual Performance 'The Morning After'
  - \* Alexander Moscidis InTech – Industrial Technology Wood
  - \* Olivia Singh Art Rules – Visual Arts
  - \* Andrew William Nguyen Encore – Music
  - \* Jacqui Franks Art Express Nominations

## Meet the Teacher

It was great to see so many parents, students and caregivers at our 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon. The afternoon was a fantastic success. Feedback received was positive, many grateful for the warm welcome to our school and the opportunity to meet teachers and executives. Thank you to all staff and students

for representing GRC Oatley Senior Campus in such a positive and professional manner. A special thank you to Ms Jamieson, our VET staff and our hospitality students for the magnificent catering. The food was definitely a topic of conversation on the night. Our school is very fortunate to have such dedicated people contributing to its success.

Also new to the school are a number of teachers and support staff. We have welcomed:

- HSIE Teacher – Emily Farrar
- HSIE Teacher – Georgia Komodromos
- HSIE Teacher – Casey Byrne
- Support Unit Teacher - Patrick Tracy
- Support Unit SLSO - Frank Kalergis



Valentine’s Day

Students sent that special someone a chocolate gift on Valentine's Day. 480 chocolate roses sold and delivered this year. Congratulations to the SRC on a successful fundraising event. It has been an absolute pleasure seeing our 2023 SRC members thrive. What a passionate group of young people!



Why Attendance Matters!

NSW Department of Education

# Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:

Learn

Build friendships

Develop life skills

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight

= 4 weeks

= Over 1 year missed

1 day per week

= 8 weeks

= Over 2.5 years missed

School and P&C Contributions

The School Contribution schedules were sent out to all families this term. These schedules enable parents to identify what monies are owed for their child. Invoices will include any outstanding compulsory subject fees owing from last year. We appreciate the many families who have already paid these fees and contributions, thus allowing us to place the necessary orders for equipment that will be used to support your child’s learning in 2023.

Our P&C Association welcomes payment of the P&C contribution, which also assists the school to provide additional resources above those provided through global funding sources.

Uniform

A reminder ..... GRC Oatley Senior Campus is a uniform school.

The school uniform creates an identity for our school and is an important part of being a school student. It is essential that all students are in the correct school uniform every day and wear the uniform correctly during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when engaged in school activities outside of school hours.

Our school uniform reflects school community standards and expectations. It was developed in consultation with and agreed upon by the school community. It is based on a strong student and parent voice. Please support us in ensuring that your child arrives at school in full school uniform. The school uniform requires all students to be in black leather shoes and navy socks.

Facebook and Instagram

A reminder to follow us on social media. Please like both our Facebook and Instagram pages. Links are below.

<https://www.facebook.com/grcoatleyseniorcampus/>

<https://www.instagram.com/grcoatleysenior/>

## School Website

Please take the time to look at the information available to parents.

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

## Exciting New Community Event

In a major facelift to their previously successful Spring Festival, Lugarno Lions will launch a new Community Fair this year on Sunday, 26 March 2023 at Riverwood Park (Off Coleridge Street).

Entry to the Ground is free and the Fair will feature two stages with free entertainment, over 100 vendor stalls, lots of carnival rides and many community-based displays.

Lugarno Lions are planning a great family day out and you can visit their website for further details if you are interested in attending:

<https://www.lugarnolions.org.au/community-fair>



## Diary Dates

### • Term 1

Week 8 – Year 12 Assessment week

Week 8 – Year 11 Progress reports emailed to parents

Monday 27th March – P&C meeting AGM

Thursday 30th March – Drama performance night

Friday 7th April – Good Friday

### • Term 2

Monday 24th April - School resumes for students

Tuesday 25th April – Anzac Day public holiday

Monday 1st May – Year 12 semester 1 reports emailed to parents

Wednesday 3rd May – Year 12 parent teacher night

Monday 29th May (7:00pm) - P&C meeting

Monday 5th June - Year 12 post school options parent information night

Monday 12th June – King's birthday public holiday

Tuesday 20th June - Year 11 semester 1 reports emailed to parents

Thursday 22nd June – Year 12 parent teacher night

Monday 26th June (7:00pm) - P&C meeting

Tuesday 27th June – The College Curriculum Expo for (Year 11 (2024))

Regards

**Anna Girginis**

**Principal**

**Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus**

## English Faculty

*Students in Year 12 English Standard are currently studying "Language, Identity and Culture". Below are works from Nikita Chalouhe, Year 12.*

### *Monumentality*

The generation that comes after us,  
They will look with strange eyes.  
The generation that came before,  
They will turn their guilty eyes away.

Some will accuse us. Some will praise us.  
But yet they will not understand.  
They will not see what we saw.  
They will not believe us when we speak.

There is a certain sense of monumentality.  
As if in a century I will still feel the same.  
It is all over now, and yet there is still fire.  
My spirit still brightly burns as it had then.

And so we shall come up out of our graves,  
Upon the orders on dead Officer's lips,  
We shall go forth to wherever they say,  
Bones and dust and crosses of iron,

Nothing more.



### *Unbelonging*

We do not belong to these streets. We are not meant to wander into stores and bars and greet each-other with smiles and waves and questions. We do not belong to these people—their faces are swirling blots of black ink on an old, abandoned canvas. They did not stand up alongside us and see the very end of the world, they heard it in sickening whispers on the



wind, for surely it must have carried itself home on the road back, for surely they must have felt the world pass them all by and leave them to melt away into dust.

But they did not see the end, the stars shattering overhead into twisting fragments, they were not smothered in the unremitting brutality, they did not tear open the sky with their claws and rip the beauty of life to shreds with their bayonets, they let the end come and go without a word—how could we ever return to such a life? How could we wander at night without senselessly fighting our own shadows? How could we live, day-by-day, without Death's weary and calloused hand on our shoulder? How could we sit in classrooms, in lecture-halls, knowing that the world they teach of's dried blood rests irremovable on our hands?

For what shall we do when they replace our rifles with broomsticks, with canes? How will we let go of our bayonets and grab hold of newspapers and books? We cannot let go of these things—if they are taken by force then our hands shall go with them, unbeknownst to anything other than that which they are bound to, having long forgotten the calmness of turning a page, the tenderness of brushing away a lover's loose fringe, the gentleness of being held by another, the beauty of life and love and the sweetness of hope.

Such things are only fading memories now, dying flames of a time now more myth than memory.

## CAPA Faculty

On Tuesday the 21st of February, the Visual Arts faculty welcomed nationally and internationally acclaimed artist Abdul Abdullah to the School.

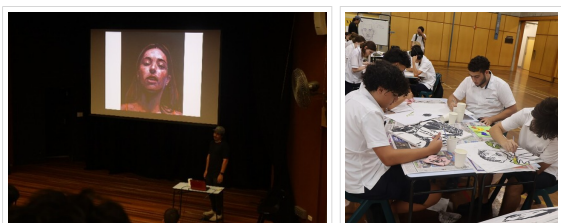
HSC and preliminary students attended Abdullah's talk and portrait workshop. The day focused on Abdullah's cultural art practice and the technicalities of the Portraiture genre.

Abdullah is a seventh-generation Australian Muslim whose work addresses the politicisation of Muslim identity within mainstream Australian culture. Working across portraiture, photography and painting, Abdullah uses his experience of growing up Muslim in the suburbs of Perth and coming of age in a post-September 11 world, to expose the prejudices and stereotypes which have demonised and marginalised Muslim youth today.

Abdullah's work is included in numerous exhibitions both nationally and internationally,

The day was a resounding success, students responding to Abdullah's warm personality, highly informative talk on cultural identity and entertaining portrait workshop.

Many thanks to Visual Arts teacher, Maxime Thompson for organising this event.



## Drama Excursion - ONSTAGE

Year 12 Drama recently visited the Seymour Centre to watch OnStage, the NESA Showcase of Exemplar Drama HSC performances. They were particularly excited to watch GRC alumni Sophia Tsoltoudis (pictured centre). Sophia's Individual Performance - A Thousand Words for Snow - was an outstanding dramatic performance demonstrating maturity and confidence.



## GRC ENSEMBLES

Are you a keen band student? Put down your instrument during lockdown and want to get started again?

Mrs Pryce (HT CAPA GRC Oatley) runs the GRC Ensembles program on Wednesday afternoons. These are cross-campus ensembles catering for students 7-12.

**GRC Concert Band: 4.15-5.00pm All players welcome**

**GRC Stage Band: 5.15 – 6.15pm Membership by audition**

For information, please contact Mrs Pryce at: [angela.pryce@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:angela.pryce@det.nsw.edu.au)

## GUITAR/DRUMS/BASS TUTORING 2023

The GRC Oatley Music department are pleased to announce that we will be offering on-site private tutoring in guitar, bass, drums and composition in partnership with local teacher and composer, Benjamin Adams.



**Tuition times: Thursdays: 3.30pm – 7.30pm**

**Lesson length: 30 minutes**

**Cost: \$40.00 per lesson (to be paid in advance)**

**Venue: GRC Oatley Music rooms**

For information, please contact Mrs Pryce at: [angela.pryce@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:angela.pryce@det.nsw.edu.au)

## VET faculty

Welcome back to the kitchen. This term Year 11 Hospitality students have been working on different styles of sandwiches. This week we bring to you Bruschetta.



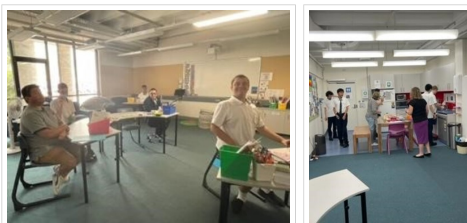
We hope you enjoy cooking along with us at home.

## Special Education faculty

We have had a great start to 2023 in the Special Education faculty. Not only do we have a wonderful new group of year 11 students, but we also have a new class plus two new experienced staff members.

The students are settling in well and are enjoying catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

We welcome Mr Patrick Tracy, the new teacher on the Red Class (students with Autism) and Mr Frank Kalergis, the new SLSO working on our Blue Class (The multicat Class). We are incredibly lucky to have them both join our team – they bring an array of skills that will greatly benefit the pathway of our students.



## Message from Mr Tracy

Hello everyone, my name is Patrick Tracy and I am the new teacher in the Special ed faculty at Oatley. I am really pleased to be working here and learning new skills to add to my years of experience working with the Department of Education. Prior to Oatley, I worked in the Support Unit at GRC Peakhurst for seven years.

## The Wellbeing Hub

Hello from the SSO!

You may be wondering what SSO stands for; well, it is Student Support Officer!

My name is Petrina Hennessey and my role involves working with the school community, including students, parents, and school staff, as well as community organisations and the wider community, to support student well-being.

My goal as an SSO is to work alongside students to promote safety, resilience and pro-social behaviours, as well as being a point of call for students to seek advice, guidance, and support. It comprises working with student's one on one, and in small groups. Students can self-refer and may be referred by the Learning Support Team / Wellbeing team, Year Advisers, Head Teachers, Deputy Principal and Principal.

A student might be referred to me for support in areas such as bullying, developing self-esteem, resilience, conflict resolution and coping skills, peer mediation, or to be connected to local external support and youth services.

For more complex issues, referral to the Head Teacher Wellbeing, Principal or School Counsellor/school psychologist is the most appropriate course of action.

I do not provide psychological or intellectual, emotional or behavioural assessments with students. These are the responsibilities of the School Counsellor/ school psychologist. However, I am part of the Wellbeing team at the school who can help provide wrap-around support for these students.

Have a wonderful year ahead and I look forward to meeting you!

**Petrina SSO ?**

**Email: [petrina.hennessey@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:petrina.hennessey@det.nsw.edu.au)**

## The 7 Domains of Wellbeing.

Start your year thinking about the importance of self-care.



## The Learning Hub

### THE LIBRARY GUIDE, for Parents of GRC Senior Students:

The GRC Oatley Library is open for students every day, from at least 8.30am-4.00pm (Except on Thursdays – 3.00pm & Fridays - 2.00 pm).

There are flexible learning spaces, including interactive screens, facility for group work as well as individual study, plus Seminar Rooms. All students have access to computers, printers, photocopying, and a vast array of



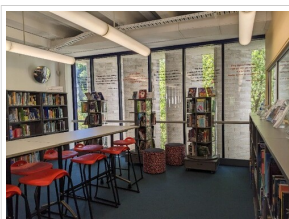
borrowable resources (books, textbooks, Clickview, study guides, magazines, DVD's etc).

There are also a number of staff members available within the Library Learning Hub space: Teacher Librarian, Head Teacher Learning Support, Learning Support teachers, Career Advisor, Transition Advisor and Youth Workers.



Many of our senior students choose to spend all of their spare time in the Library, making the best use of the facilities (and support services), and enjoying time with friends. Some dutifully study, every afternoon. There is an active cohort who enjoy playing Mindcraft Edu. and a Geography application utilising Google Maps. Some just sit and read, especially around the Graphic Text area. We have had groups being shown how to knit, crochet, do Origami and use Mindcraft. This modern facility has been set-up to cater to the needs of all students.

Our students come regularly to the Library Learning Hub to simply work on assignments and assessments, and to seek assistance with research. At our busiest times, we can have well over 150 students in the Library. There are 30 computers readily available. The core values of Respect, Responsibility and Aiming for Excellence are well-established in the Library Learning Hub spaces. Whenever students are in the Library, it is understood that the teaching and learning being undertaken is happening with respect for others.



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