



# Melrose High School Message Stick



*"A community of learners building on a tradition of excellence"*

Issue 11: 17 December 2021

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## FROM THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE

We have reached the end of another busy school year and have been reminiscing about what we have achieved along our journey. Before revelling in the successes outlined below, we would like to say thank you to the students, parents/carers and staff for their patience as we have undergone so many hurdles over the year.

Term Four is so busy and always full of mixed emotions as we bid farewell to our incredible Year 10 students and some amazing staff. To these valued members of our community, we say:

Congratulations Year 10 we are so very proud of what you have achieved and have been honoured to be part of your journey.

### **We bid farewell**

To our educators, those who impart knowledge and mould our young people, we say goodbye and good luck to:

- Aine McAuley – thank you and congratulations on your new appointment as Executive Teacher at St Francis Xavier.
- Eddy Hoek – thank you for supporting the Arts & Technology Team and we hope that your retirement is full of creativity.
- Lucy Sedlacek - thank you and congratulations on your new appointment at Evelyn Scott School.
- Nathan Sciberras - thank you and congratulations on your new appointment at Harrison School.
- Abby Johnson - thank you and congratulations on your new appointment at Amaroo School.
- Jessica McPherson- thank you and congratulations on your new appointment at Lyneham High School.
- Paul Harriott - thank you and congratulations on your new appointment at Lake Tuggeranong College.
- Hannah Brickhill - thank you and congratulations on your new appointment at Margret Hendry School.
- Renu Narayan - thank you and enjoy all the pleasures of retirement.
- Keso Adhar - thank you and enjoy all the pleasures of retirement.

To our contract and relief teachers and administrative staff we say goodbye, good luck and big thank you to:

- Claire Clode – thank you for leading the Administration Team and being an active member of the Senior Executive Team as our Business & Facilities Manager (BM). Congratulations on your new appointment as BM at Canberra College.
- Robert Kibble – Virtual Learning Academy
- Eleanor Morison – Virtual Learning Academy
- Alister Price – Arts & Technology.

It is with heavy hearts that we farewell our Principal, Simon Vaughan. Simon has been with us since January 2014 and in this time, we have experienced success after success. We don't have time to share all of these but need to highlight a few. He willingly visited our sister schools abroad and continues to strengthen these partnerships and build his own lasting relationships with the Principals of Min de and Makebestu. He has steered the Good Ship Melrose through the stormy seas of COVID like a seasoned sailor, always focusing on the wellbeing of the whole community. We have all grown as Educators due to his willingness and encouragement to explore our ideas and try new things. He leaves big shoes to fill, and we are excited to hear the outcome of the principal panel in Term Two, 2022. In the interim, at the helm will be Shannon Carnovale who will steer the Good Ship Melrose as acting Principal for Term One, 2022. She will be re-joined by Ryan

Kay and Stephannie Dormer who will be the acting Deputy Principal for the term.

## **Welcome to our community**

We are excited to welcome our incoming Year 7's and their families to our community on Monday 31 January 2022. The Malcolm Barlow Hall will open its doors at 8.45am to welcome our new Year 7 students and one family member only, due to COVID.

We welcome back and congratulate as newly appointed permanent members of the Education Directorate and members of the Melrose Community:

- Jacob Cumming – PE & FLIP
- Shirley Ke – Chinese, EAL/D & VLA
- Raewyn Tuffery – English & HaSS.

We also welcome on contract the following teachers to the Melrose community for 2022:

- Daniel Deng – Mathematics & Digital Technologies
- Laura Duffy – English & HaSS
- Alice Barnes – English & Virtual Learning Academy
- Katelyn Evans – PE
- Amrit Singh – HaSS & LAP
- Dudley Hall – Maths.

We welcome the following new teachers who will be transferring to Melrose as permanent members of our community:

- Trudy Yeates – Dance & Student Engagement
- David Greenwood – Music & HaSS
- Sarah Burke – HaSS & LAP
- Holly Perryman – Maths & LAP
- Eva Reynolds – Science & Maths.

## **Melrose in Numbers**

The much celebrated, Melrose in Numbers has made its return this year, please join us to celebrate and congratulate the school community on their incredible achievements.

## **Student Census**

Melrose HS currently has 856 students enrolled for 2021 including:

- 27 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- 49 identified Inclusive Education students
- 27 students who participate in EAL/D classes
- 120 students identify English as their second/third spoken language.

In 2022 we welcome 199 new Year 7 students and 12 new students in Years 8-10

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education**

We have 27 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students:

- We farewelled 7 Year 10 students onto college
- We welcome 8 Year 7 students for 2022

## **Academic Curriculum Extension (ACE) Program**

- 92 students participated in ACE Science
  - o 10 of these students also participated in ACE Science Mentors Program
- 94 students participated in ACE Maths
- 62 students participated in ACE English
- 59 students participated in ACE HaSS
- 24 students participated in ACE Dance

- 21 students participated in ACE Drama
- 14 students participated in ACE Music
- 28 students participated in ACE Visual Art

## Big Picture

61 students participated in the Big Picture Program (BP) in 2021

- 30 participated in the Learning Through Internship (LTI) for their BP Project
- In 2022 there will be 59 students across the Year 7-10 BP Advisories.

## Competitions

Please note not all results available due to COVID

- AMT Australian Mathematics Competition – 14 students
- ATOM Photo Competition – 1 student
  - o Year 9, Levi Martin was a finalist in the Lower Secondary Category with his photo series entitled, Turbulent Canberra
- Australian History Competition – 30 students
- Big Science competition – 1 student
- Canberra Maths Association (CMA) Talent Quest – 8 entries submitted in Year 8 and 10, with the following student outcomes:
  - o Will Falconer – First Place in Year 10 Individual Category
  - o Lea Colak, Amelia Bostle and Rachel Lau – First Place in the Year 10 Small Group Category
  - o Jiaqi Zhang, Samuel Gray and Adrian Lam – Second Place in the Year 10 Small Group Category
  - o Sourisa Phengkhammy – Second Place in the Year 8 Individual Category
  - o Samuel Xohli, Denali Lambeth and Ari Whyatt – First Place in the Year 8 Small Group Category
  - o Bella Hartley – First Place in the Year 8 Individual Category
  - o Layni Hilton-Bell, Angelique Corbitt and Caitlin Watson – Finalist in the Year 8 Small Group Category
- Dance Festival – 22 students choreographed and performed a piece to the theme, *Digital Dystopia Utopia*
- Grok NCSS Challenge – 1 student
- Grok Web.Comp – 1 student
- ICAS Digital Technologies Competition – 10 students
  - o Kynan Redman and Logan Puric achieved Distinction.
  - o 1 student achieved a Credit.
- ICAS English Competition – 27 students
  - o Joshua Ford achieved a High Distinction
  - o Logan Puric, Samuel Gray, Benjamin Gray, Katie Polette achieved Distinctions.
  - o 9 students achieved a Credit.
- ICAS Maths Competition – 49 students
  - o 10 students achieved a Credit
- ICAS Science Competition – 33 students
  - o Daniel Tella, Logan Puric, Benjamin Gray, Luka Stevanovic achieved a Distinction.
  - o 9 students achieved a Credit.
- ICAS Spelling Competition – 8 students
  - o Niaz Khan achieved a Distinction
  - o 3 students achieved Credits
- Mathematics and Statistics Research Competition
  - o Logan Puric received a Certificate of Participation for his research.
- Language Perfect Championships - 166 students
  - Outcome: 6th place globally, 3rd place in Australia, 2nd in ACT Schools
- RACI Chemistry Competition - 7 students
  - o Outcome: 2 Distinctions & 3 participations
- SEAACT Science Fair: 12 entries with 6 students receiving awards:
  - o 4 Highly Commended awards and
  - o Two second place awards

- Simpson History Prize – 3 students

### **Gifted & Talented Education**

- 22 students were identified as Gifted & Talented through CoGat across Year 7-10
- 13 students actively participated in the Melrose Marvel Program in 2021
- Outcomes for students included:
  - o Participation in the University of Melbourne Maths and Statistics Research Competition
  - o Participation in the annual OzClo Challenge
  - o Research into passion projects, including how to build a 3D printer from household items, the links between Maths and Music, how to create an AFL dream team and Programming using Python, Java and HTML
  - o Participation in online courses, lectures and seminars included:
    - Psychology, Cosmology, Biology and Life Sciences through EdX and ANU online platforms
    - Shooting, handballing and scoring with Stephen Curry via Masterclass
    - Investigative Journalism with Bob Woodward via Masterclass
    - The Art of the Short Story with Joyce Carol Oates via Masterclass
    - Acting with Natalie Portman via Masterclass
    - Scientific Thinking and Communication with Neil deGrasse Tyson via Masterclass
    - Writing for Young Audiences with RL Stine via Masterclass
    - Space Exploration with Chris Hadfield via Masterclass
  - o Work Experience (Year 10 students only)
  - o Improving working memory
  - o Working on Maths curriculum above current academic level (for example, calculus)
    - Year 8 students, Logan Puric and Layla Baker-Gabb are accessing Year 9 ACE Maths and in 2022 will complete the 10 Advanced course.
- Year 10, Joshua Crawford graduated with 4 units of Specialist-Methods Mathematics through Canberra College.

### **Inclusive Education Programs**

We have 25 identified Inclusive Education students enrolled in small groups programs whose personalised pathways include:

- 14 participated in core classes in the Learning Support Unit (LSU)
- 11 participated in core classes in the Learning Support Centre (LSC)
- 2 students accessed off campus specialised programs/alternative educational settings
- 6 students participated in selected mainstream core subjects based on interests and strengths
- All students participated in mainstream Physical Education and electives program
- 7 students participated in a mainstream language class
- 2 mainstream students accessed the PEERS social skills training program
- In 2022 our Learning Achievement Program (LAP) will grow to include:
  - o 3 LSUs
  - o 1 LSC
- Transitions happened for 5 incoming students and 6 outgoing students throughout Term Four, 2021
- 24 students are supported through the Inclusion Support Program
  - o 5 students are enrolled in the Big Picture (BP)
  - o 1 student participated in BP Elective program and will transition to BP Year 10 Academy for 2022.
  - o 3 students accessed LAP for additional support in some subjects based on personalised/individual need

### **Music Programs**

- 58 students participated in the Concert Band
  - o 6 in the ACT Junior Concert band
  - o 1 in the ACT Senior Concert Band
  - o 4 in the Senior Concert Choir

- 20 in the MHS Beginner Band
- 24 students in the MHS Backstage Crew – assemblies, performance, awards

## Physical Education

- 12 students acted as Officials at the cluster primary school sporting carnivals
- 7 students represented MHS at the Zone and ACT Swimming Carnivals
- 70 students represented MHS at the Zone and ACT Cross Country
- Students participated in the following School Sports teams:
  - o Touch Football – 4 teams
  - o Basketball – 4 teams
  - o Beach Volleyball – 15 students
  - o Volleyball – 4 teams
  - o Rugby League – 2 teams

## Response to Intervention (RTI)

We have 2 dedicated programs for literacy and numeracy RTI, *Getting Ready in Numeracy* (GRiN) and The Macquarie Literacy program (MacqLit).

- 17 students (Years 7-10) participated in GRiN
  - o All students improved in their Maths grade
  - o 15 were at standard by the end of the Semester One, 2021
- 31 students were targeted for GRiN in Semester Two, 2021, but this was impacted upon by COVID
  - o Grade data not yet analysed
- In Semester one, 2022 GRiN will target Year 8- 10 students
- 25 students participated in MacqLit:
  - o 11 Year 8 students completed MacqLit successfully meeting all the criteria
  - o 1 student completed half the program
- 13 Year 7 students started MacqLit and will continue into 2022

## Student Engagement

The school is committed to the social and emotional wellbeing of students and as part of this commitment has connected with external agencies to provide pastoral care programs such as:

- 2 students participated in the PCYC Adventure program
- 2 students participated in the PCYC Day Programs
- 7 students participated in the MHS Turning Point Program (Male mentoring through wood turning)
- All of Year 7 & 8 students participated in the Menslink Program, Silence is Deadly
- 6 students participated in the Messengers Art Program through the Tuggeranong Arts Centre
- 9 students participated in the Woden Community Services Pretty Tough Girls Program that focussed on self-esteem building
- 3 Students participated in PCYC New Leaf Program
- 6 students participated in After School Gym Program with the YSW at Club Lime
- Year 7, 8 & 9 participated in MIEACT Mental Health and Me Program
- Year 10 participated in the MIEACT Stress Better Program
- All students participated in the E-Safety Program run by the ACT Education Directorate
- 10 students participated in the Marymead Seasons for Growth Grief Program
- 9 students participated in the Multicultural Youth Services Live Respect Program
- 17 students participated in the YSW Young Men's Multisport Program
- 9 students participated in the Individual Supports Program focused on building resilience in youth
- 5 students participated in the Tedd Noffs Drug and Alcohol Counselling Program
- Approximately 90-110 students accessed the Breakfast Club weekly on Tuesday and Thursday
- Approximately 20-35 students accessed the Homework Club weekly on Monday and Wednesday
- Approximately 30 students accessed support from the YSW at Youth Crate Drop In.

## **Student Leadership**

- 58 Year 10 students participated in the Peer Support Leadership Program
- All Year 9 students participated in the Peer Support Training program through the wellbeing check in sessions throughout Term Four, 2021 in preparation for selection as Peer support leaders for 2022
- Each House group had 2 student Sport Leaders and 2 student Community Leaders, and they led the following events:
  - o Scrunchies for Athletics Carnival – Noola House
  - o Disco Fundraiser – Noola House
  - o MS Readathon – Wallara House

## **Virtual Learning Academy (VLA)**

The VLA was piloted in 2021 with the support of our new Executive Teacher, Joe Lloyd, even with COVID interruptions we experienced the following successes:

- 22 students enrolled in the VLA:
  - o 17 Year 9 & 10 students
  - o 4 Year 8 students
  - o 1 Year 7 student
- Outcomes for students included:
  - o All Year 10 students graduated and will attend mainstream programs at college in 2022
  - o Attendance and participation in school increased for all students
  - o Completion of assessment and submission of work increased for all students
  - o Qualitative feedback from students has been that the VLA is a space in which they feel safe and supported and have been able to explore personalised avenues for learning and curriculum access.

## **Vocational Education and Training**

- 7 students participated in the Certificate II in Construction Program through the Quality Training in Construction
- 3 students were successful in their application to the Women in Construction Pathways Program. These students will be undertaking an ASBA in 2022, they will receive a Certificate II in Resources and Infrastructure Work at the end of the 18-month program.
- 96 students have participated in Work Experience (WEX)
  - o Placements included the following industries: hospitality, teaching, building and construction, hairdressing, beauty, childcare, veterinary hospitals, Canberra Reptile Zoo, and nursing home placements.
  - o Outcomes for students included:
    - 8 students being offered the opportunity to participate in an Australian School Based Apprenticeship (ASBA) that they will continue into Year 10 and college.
    - 2 students in Year 10 offered a full-time Automotive apprenticeship for 2022 after a successful WEX placement at John McGrath Auto Group.
- 12 students participated in ASBAs.
  - o The ASBAs that students are participating include electrical, carpentry, hospitality, education support and swimming pool maintenance
- 10 students participated in a Vocational Learning Options (VLOs) for Beauty, Childcare, Nursing, Vet Nursing, Electrotechnology, Hospitality and Allied Health Services.
- 38 students completed White Card and Asbestos Awareness Training
- Year 9 students, Daniella Titulaer & Levi Martin were successful in their application and were selected into the Automotive Pre-Apprenticeship training program being run at Lake Tuggeranong College in 2022
- 48 students enrolled in the Certificate I in Hospitality as an elective subject at the school with Executive Teacher, Stephannie Dormer. Outcomes for students were:
  - o 4 received full Certificate I in Hospitality
  - o 24 received a Statement of Attainment in Hospitality
  - o 5 students will continue with the elective in 2022 to work towards full certification.



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Ryan Kay  
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## MELROSE HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL BOARD 2022

The Board is responsible for overseeing the school's strategic direction. School Boards must observe Directorate directions and ACT Government priorities and all legislative obligations. If you would like to contribute to the governance of the school, then joining the Board would be the perfect opportunity.

Nominations will open on Monday, 7 February 2022, for the following positions on the School Board. Each term will be for a period of two years:

- 1 staff member;
- 1 local community member; and
- 1 student member (year 7-9).

Note: With changes this year to the Education Amendment Act 2020, as a school without a P&C association, we need to first advertise for a local community member. If we get no nominations for a local community member, then we re-advertise the vacancy as a parent member.

Nomination forms will be available from the Front Office from Monday 7 February 2022.

For more information visit the website [https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/get-involved-in-your-childs-school/school\\_boards](https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/get-involved-in-your-childs-school/school_boards) or contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Ruth Mahon via email, [ruth.mahon@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:ruth.mahon@ed.act.edu.au)

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# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Wow, what an amazing year we have had. There have been some challenges and opportunities that students have experienced that have built their capacity and helped them grow!

In 2021, The Student Engagement Team had a large focus on teaching and then embedding the expected behaviours at Melrose High School of being a SAFE / RESPECTFUL / LEARNER. These lessons were short and successful, where students engaged in a learning cycle of TELL / SHOW / PRACTISE. Students responded well to the hands-on-approach and the involvement of the whole school having the same expected behaviours.

One of the most exciting and culture building tasks we did in Student Engagement was rolling out the new and refined rewards system at Melrose High School. These were aptly named the MVPs (Melrose Values Points.) Staff and students really positively engaged in the process of earning and issuing the MVPs over the 2021 year and importantly this had the most positive impact upon culture!

The amazing team in Student Engagement were very agile and quick to move when the ACT Government placed the community on stay-at-home orders. Each staff member was allocated a list of families to check in with and assist by asking some targeted questions. The questions were:

1. What are you aiming for this week with your child / children?
2. Why are you aiming for this?
3. What roadblocks may you encounter?

The results of this check in were visible for the students and families alike, allowing the Student Engagement Team to build positive and meaningful relationships with the Melrose High School Community.

On to 2022, The Student Engagement Team are super excited to be expanding their space. As I type, we have builders, painters and electricians hard at work in our offices. The 2022 Student Engagement Space will consist of more calming spaces, sensory tools, sit and stand desks and working pods for staff and students. It will be a future focused area to solve problems that matter for the students of Melrose HS. The fitout, furniture and function of the space has had student voice, consultation and suggestions considered. We believe that it will be the best Student Engagement space in the ACT.

Please have a safe and exciting holiday break with your families and remember to reach out to us if you have any support needs via the email address: [URsafe\\_melrosehs@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:URsafe_melrosehs@ed.act.edu.au)

Some questions below for the holiday period ,if your child experiences some challenges. They are not sequential, and you can use any of them at anytime, applying them to the right context.

- What was the best part of the day for you?
- What are the three things that made you smile today?
- What three things are you grateful for today?
- How do you usually keep things going when things get tough?
- What did you do today that made you try hard?
- What mistake did you make today that taught you something?

Let us know how these questions go if you use them!

Regards

Nathan Hitchcock, Garry Douglas & Lucy Sedlacek  
SLC Student Engagement & Teaching Staff



## YEAR 6 VISITS AND TRANSITIONS

The excitement is building for the arrival of our wonderful Year 7's in 2022. Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions prevented our normal transition days, so our new students had a few of my solo visits. It's been great to be welcomed into schools and to see eager new Melrosians in the making.

Our new students are showing great enthusiasm for their Melrose High School experience as well as some of the expected nerves. I took questions and assured them that they can look forward to having the school to themselves on day 1 next term.

There has been some excellent work done in preparing for the year transition in the form of virtual tours and important conversations with students and parents. We would like to thank the hard work and dedication of the staff and parents of our great feeder schools in guiding them through their primary school journeys.

Here's to sending off 2021 and we look forward to seeing our new faces in 2022.

Regards,  
Hunter Walters  
Yr6 Coordinator

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## YEAR 7 REPORT

Well done Year 7. What a year we have had. This year has had its ups and downs, but it has been my pleasure to witness how the Year 7's have taken this uncertainty in their stride. This year they have been the standout leaders in the MVPs across the school, always trying to be Safe, Respectful, Learners. Not a day goes by that I don't have a teacher stop to tell me how delightful and hard-working their Year 7 class is.

At the awards assembly last week, I was so proud to be able to recognise all the achievements of so many students across all the subject areas. Special mention to Ebony Lans who received the Principal's award for Year 7 in Semester Two.

As we move into 2022, I would love to see all students continue to aim for their personal best here at Melrose High. They have fitted into the Melrose community so beautifully and I look forward to seeing them grow and develop over the next year.

Well done, have a safe and relaxing break.  
Danielle Driver  
Yr7 Coordinator

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## YEAR 8 REPORT

The end of this year signals the halfway point of high school for our amazing Year 8 students. For the 2 years that they have been at Melrose High School they have had to deal with lockdowns, timetable changes, masks and many other challenges. It is impressive as an adult to see how tough and resilient each and everyone of them are. Of course we all have our moments that we would rather forget, but we quickly bounce back. We have had many successes both academically and on the sporting field and have grown into kind and caring teenagers.

I mentioned at the awards presentation about the importance of showing gratitude and how something as easy as saying thank you can make a huge difference to someone else and even improve your own wellbeing. It certainly lights up my day when my woodwork class says thankyou and goodbye at the end of each lesson. I encourage all of you to give it a try. Next year in Year 9 we have a few exciting opportunities as we start peer

support training and also have the chance to do a work experience placement. It is a time to start thinking about your future and what you need to achieve to make it happen. For those of you that are not sure, work experience is a great way to sample an occupation.

Well done, have a relaxing break, stay safe and see you all next year.

Tim Pike

Yr8 Co-ordinator

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## **YEAR 9 REPORT**

With this newsletter, we mark the end of another tumultuous year for our Melrose community. Another lockdown, a plethora of changing restrictions to abide by, and myriad disruptions to our normal routines, including 4 different timetables this semester.

Through all this, the Year 9 cohort have remained resilient and upbeat, and continue to improve. They cap off a successful year having completed their final round of NAPLAN and Peer Support training. Year 9 students flourished in the elective system, and many are keenly taking advantage of the many alternative opportunities that are now available to them, such as ASBAs, the Virtual Learning Academy and workplace learning.

It was a pleasure to acknowledge the extensive number of Year 9 students last week who achieved Semester Awards for their achievement and particularly their efforts, with a number of students receiving one of these for the first time.

They are growing now to become the leaders of the school, and are already displaying their leadership bonafides. Melrose students will have a new voice next year in a new Student Representative Council, an initiative which has been spearheaded by a Year 9 student. There has also already been a wave of students willing to give up their last day of holidays to make sure next year's Year 7 cohort has a smooth orientation, which has been pleasing to see.

I know they'll keep it up and have a fantastic final year of high school.

Regards,

Dane Wells

Year 9 Coordinator

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## **YEAR 10 REPORT**

In our first assembly of the year, I tried to emphasise to all of the Year 10's the importance of the year and making the most of all opportunities that were presented to them. I watched as this cohort took my thoughts and ideas and then went off to make the year their own. Even though a decent chunk of their year was spent in lockdown, and we always had other disruptions occurring around the school, they have shown amazing resilience and perseverance through it all, and come out flying at the end. Some have made their own way by participating in ASBA's and WEX opportunities, making their mark on the world, whilst most of the Year 10's will move onto College next year to continue their educational path in whatever form it takes for them. I cannot express how proud I am of this year group and the amazing young people they are. They have been valued members of the Melrose Community for 4 years and their smiling faces will be greatly missed by all of us they leave behind. But onwards and upwards Year 10, your chapter of high school is done, open the page for a new chapter in 2022.

Regards,

Kerryn Leiper

Year 10 Coordinator

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# YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER 2021 REPORT

In spite of the challenges we faced in 2021 I was still able to work with the Melrose community and achieve some wonderful outcomes for our students and see the strength people can show in the face of adversity.

I was still able to run many of my regular programs including Season for Growth with Marymead, Pretty Tough with Woden Community Service, Live Respect with the MultiCultural Youth Service and the ATSI mentoring program with Niche Power Performance. We still ran a modified breakfast club and when at school we ran all our multi-sport programs and kept the Youth Crate open.

A big part of the work I implemented this year was individual support which I provided to over 14 students. We did activities like wood turning, weight training and even op shopping, the aim of this support is not focused on the actual activity, rather it is an opportunity to chat away from peers, develop a positive relationship with an adult in the school and be provided with positive support.

Through lock down I delivered meals cooked by our canteen to over 20 families every week, it was a great way to keep in touch and ensure people were going ok. I also helped the Virtual Learning Academy delivering learning packs.

As you can imagine much of this work was quite expensive and wouldn't have been possible without the support of our partners and businesses like Thors Hammer, Nestle, Kellogg's and many more.

Overall, 2021 was a very successful year and I'm looking forward to the challenges 2022 has to offer.

Regards

Mark Baldwin

Youth Support Worker

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## 2021 ICAS RESULTS

After a lengthy delay, we were finally able to have our students participate in the 2021 ICAS Assessments. I am very proud of all students who participated in this year of uncertainty, and I am pleased to share with you some of our outstanding results:

### ICAS English

27 students participated. Congratulations to Joshua Ford for achieving a High Distinction, and Logan Puric, Samuel Gray, Benjamin Gray, Katie Polette for their Distinctions. A further 9 students achieved a Credit.

### Spelling Bee

8 students participated. Congratulations to Niaz Khan for achieving a Distinction. A further 3 students achieved a Credit.

### ICAS Maths

49 students participated, with 10 Credits achieved.

### ICAS Science

33 students participated. Congratulations to Daniel Tella, Logan Puric, Benjamin Gray, Luka Stevanovic for achieving a Distinction. A further 9 students achieved a Credit.

### Digital Technologies

9 students participated. Congratulations to Kynan Redman and Logan Puric for achieving a Distinction. One Credit was also achieved.

All students have received notification of their results, and certificates will be awarded early next year.

Regards,

Mary De Poorter

SLC Language

# CULTURAL INTEGRITY UPDATE

Yuma and welcome to the last Message Stick Cultural Integrity update for 2021.

It's been such a challenging time for us all, especially our students. Despite lockdown, we have still successfully weaved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives throughout our learning and have some great achievements to celebrate.

We farewelled some of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students as they graduated Year 10 this year. We wish them every success in the learning pathways they have chosen to take as they leave MHS. We are also looking forward to welcoming a number of Year 7 students who are joining our 'Melrose Mob' in 2022.

## Gawar Centre

Our Gawar Centre is the cultural heart of MHS, with the word 'gawar' meaning 'heart' in the Ngunnawal language. During the lockdown period and now with the ongoing restrictions, we were unfortunately unable to use this space to support our students and their learning. On a positive note, we are really looking forward to opening the doors again in 2022 and creating some authentic and engaging cultural learning opportunities for all students. We also now have our completed mural on the wall outside the Gawar Centre, which draws together elements of culture and acknowledgement of the Ngunnawal Country we are so lucky to live on.



## Congratulations Maddie!

Year 10 student Madelyne Williams enjoyed some huge successes this year through having one of her original artworks selected by AIME (Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience) and was even interviewed by VOGUE Australia - check out her inspiring article and the story behind her artwork here: <https://www.vogue.com.au/culture/features/aime-making-space/news-story/025cb231739b01336fa10c7bb7c9f605>

Maddie's artwork appears on the 2022 AIME hoodie, which many of our staff and students have purchased and are wearing. Check out Maddie's work here: <https://shop.aimentoring.com/collections/all-products/products/making-space-hero-hoodie>

We are so proud of Maddie and can't wait to see the doors that this opportunity opens for her!

## Young Men's Group

Our young men's group has recommenced, with the students continuing to work with Tim Cornforth (Torres Strait Islander man) and Mark Baldwin (MHS Youth Worker) with fitness programs and empowering conversations around culture and respect.

## NAIDOC 2021

This year National NAIDOC celebrations happened over the Term 3 break, and we were in lockdown soon after. As a result, many of the activities and events we had hoped to run across our MHS community had to be postponed. Our IEO approached Bunnings Tuggeranong and we have received a generous donation of timber poles and paints to help bring our vision to life. We have a vision to create an art installation which would involve all students and teachers at MHS. All will be revealed in 2022!



## Indigenous Education Officer (IEO) Update

It hasn't been an easy end to the year, but we have made it. I am so proud to have been a part of the MHS community for another year. Our culture is strong, and I know our students and teachers have worked to the best of their ability through a really challenging time. Please take away a sense of pride and achievement and use the break to recharge and reset for a bigger and brighter 2022. I am really looking forward to working with teachers, students and families next year to continue to grow and enhance the cultural integrity of MHS. I would love to hear from you if you have any ideas for how you would like to get involved or support the sharing of First Nations culture across our MHS community. Feel free to email me on [monica.harland@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:monica.harland@ed.act.edu.au).

Take care of yourself, your loved ones and this beautiful country we walk on,  
Mon

## Dreamy

Dreamy is a collection of sleep stories created by contemporary First Nations storytellers. These stories bring ancient oral tradition into an online space and can be used for mindfulness, sleep and relaxation by anyone. Check out this beautiful and free collection of stories at <https://www.dreamysleep.com.au/>

## 2022 STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

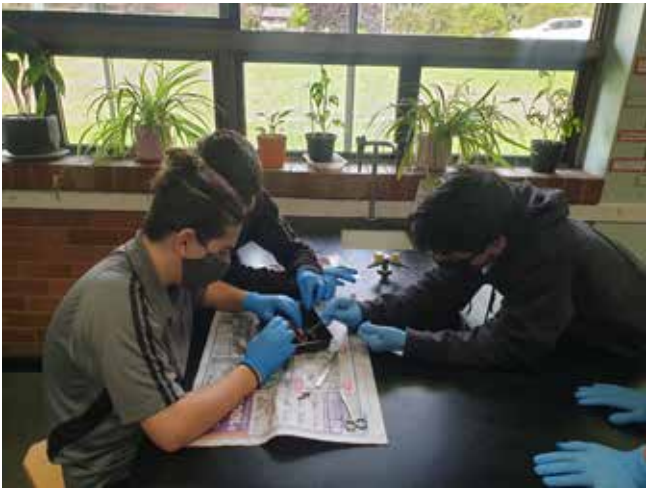
Download the list HERE [https://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/534393/2022\\_Stationery\\_Requirements.pdf](https://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/534393/2022_Stationery_Requirements.pdf)

## NEWS FROM SCIENCE

What a fantastic term four we have had in Science! Returning to face-to-face learning gave everyone the opportunity to apply the knowledge learned while online into practice.

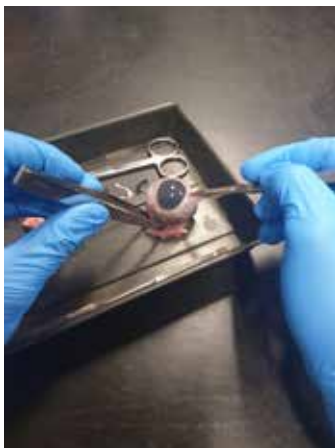
We have had many experiments running over the past few weeks and hope you enjoy these photos of science in action!

Year 7 students had the opportunity to investigate the solar system and ecological systems.



Year 8 students conducted many Chemistry experiments to learning about the periodic table and how elements react with each other.

Year 9 students learned about the movement of energy, including light waves and how the eye works.



We were also able to run the ICAS Science competition and received the results of the International Chemistry Quiz and SEEACT Science Fair. Congratulations to all the students who participated in these opportunities!



This term the science team ran a sausage sizzle to raise money for new science equipment. Thank you to all staff and students who supported the faculty on the day and purchased one of the delicious sausages.



We also want to congratulate Sam Burn, our trusty Science Assistant, for winning the ACT Government Actsmart Schools Sustainability Leadership Award (secondary school staff). Sam has been a tireless advocate for sustainability and has guided, nurtured and mentored students to take action! Her many sustainability actions include mentoring the Sustainability Crew, introducing and maintaining co-mingled recycling system at the school and starting an op-shop with Koomarri to teach students about fast fashion and providing accessible solutions to the problem. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and sustainably focused staff member working in our school. The dress Sam wore on the day was purchased from the op-shop at Melrose.



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## NEWS FROM PHOTOGRAPHY

Congratulations to Yr 9 student Levi Martin who was a finalist for the 2021 ATOM Photo Competition. Levi submitted 3 images to this year's theme 'Turbulence'. Well done Levi!!!!



# BACKSTAGE PRODUCTION AND ACE DRAMA

Backstage Production and ACE Drama pulled off an awesome show this week! They didn't have a live audience, but they did have big energy and incredible team work. Congrats, guys!



## VISUAL ART

### Year 7 Visual Art

Year 7 Visual Art students learnt about mixing tints and shades of one colour to communicate light and shadow in their monochrome paintings.



### 9/10 Mural and Street Art

Mural and Street Art students undertook a thorough consultation process to develop the design for the annual Year 10 mural which is displayed alongside historic Year 10 murals in the school corridors. The Year 10 cohort requested that events and experiences that had an influence on their time at High School be included in the mural.



### 9/10 Printmaking

In 9/10 Printmaking, students developed skills in reduction lino printing which requires thorough planning and complex layered cutting to create prints with multiple colours.





# NEWS FROM HaSS

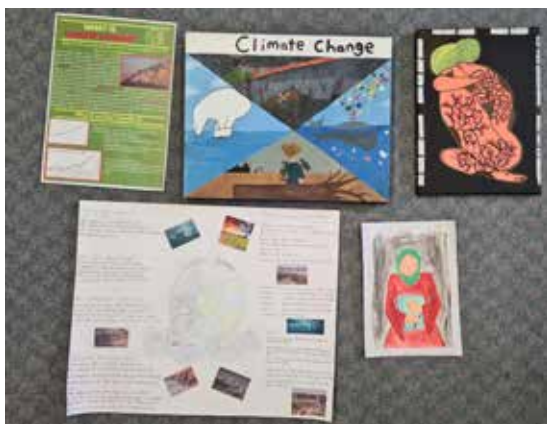
## Year 7

This semester our Year 7 students explored water as a resource, facts about water in our world, access to water, and its relationship to weather and natural hazards. When learning about some of the issues our water systems face, a great Year 7 student created this poster about plastic pollution in the ocean.



## Year 8

This semester our Year 8 students completed a Geography unit on land and landforms through the study of various natural disasters. To gain a better understanding of how disasters are avoided and prepared for, the students completed the 'Stop Disasters' game created by UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.



## Year 10

This semester our Year 10 students explored the challenges to sustainability, and the environmental worldviews that influence people. To show their understanding, the classes were tasked with creating some posters displaying some sustainability and social challenges. Here is just a small sample of amazing submissions received.

# MATHS NEWS

## University of Melbourne Mathematics and Statistics Research Competition

This semester Logan Puric in Year 8 enter the University of Melbourne's annual Mathematics and Statistics Competition. He researched the impact a contagious disease would have on a city of 1 million people, looking at details of super spreaders, serious illness and the impact a single lockdown might have to help curb the spread of the disease. He has been recognised by the University for his research submission. Congratulations Logan!



## Final Week Fun

As we finish off our final week of Maths for 2021 students have been having a lot of fun delving into some alternative mathematical concepts and engaging in some practical games and activities that solidify students mathematical understanding. From strategy games and logic puzzles, to tower building and lottery investigations and even some interesting research into how fast Santa would have to fly in order to visit every country in the world on Christmas Eve. Congratulations to every Maths student on everything you have achieved this year!

## ORANGUTAN UPDATE

Every year Melrose High School Indonesian classes sponsor five orangutans being rehabilitated to return to the wild in Indonesia. The progress of Charlie, Kobe, Crystal, Jeffrey Junior and Holland have been closely followed by the Melrose community since 2017.

Here is a little update on Jeffrey Junior from Orangutan Foundation International:

*When not trying to rock the playground to the ground, Jeffrey busies himself with rattan balls filled with treats that are provided by the enrichment team. He holds a treat-filled rattan ball close to his face gazing intensely into it as if it's a crystal ball. Then he proceeds to pull it apart. Once the contents are devoured, Jeffrey throws the ball on the discard pile and moves on. He is not one to dwell on anything. Jeffrey works his way around the playground and journeys ever deeper and higher into the forest. No tree is too tall for this little thrill seeker! Up or down, Jeffrey is happy. The dizzying heights of the trees are just as fascinating as the muddy pools that form around the bases of the trees.*

Due to COVID restrictions, we have not been able to run our annual cupcake stall in 2021. For the time being, just Jeffrey Junior continues to be sponsored by Melrose, as we committed to a two-year sponsorship of him, when we had a bumper fundraising effort in 2020. We hope to bring back our Cupcake Day early in 2022. If restrictions continue, we will brainstorm some other ideas to fundraise for our orangutans.



Rebecca Battaglini - Indonesian Teacher

# SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

## Op-Shop

The Op-Shop 'REVAMPED' run by the Melrose High Sustainability Crew re-opened for business in Term 4. This is an ongoing partnership with Koomarri, where all proceeds help support people with disabilities in the community. It allows students to be more conscious of their clothing choices and understand the negative impacts of fast fashion on the environment and wider society. This term, 20 student and staff customers helped raise \$105. In total, they have raised \$665 for the not-for-profit organisation, such an amazing achievement!



## Recycling

In Term 4 the Sustainability Crew sent 3,500 litres of materials to be recycled, instead of being sent to landfill. Contamination is still a concern (10% is acceptable at the recycling facility) although it has improved from previous terms, which is great news! We are currently at 30% contamination, down from 35% in Term 2 and 45% in Term 1, let's keep it going! The contamination culprits are food scraps, containers with liquid, soft plastics and single-use items. We all need to be mindful (not mindless) about what we put in the recycling bin, at school and at home, and remember "Check it! Before you chuck it" and "When in doubt, throw it out!". A great resource to explain how we can #RecycleRight, can be found on the ACT Government website

<https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia>

## Do you #RecycleRight?

Did you know soft plastic can't be put in the yellow kerbside bin? Instead, they can be dropped off to Coles and Woolworths in their REDcycle bins to be made into chairs, tables and decking. This reduces the amount of unnecessary plastic in landfill and the environment. For more information on what you can REDcycle visit

<https://redcycle.net.au/>

## Farewell to the Sustainability Crew

This year we say farewell to the remaining members of the Sustainability Crew, they will be sorely missed! So in 2022 we will be recruiting new members. If your child is passionate and cares for the environment through recycling, buying 2nd hand clothes or making others aware of the issues we all face as a society, we are looking for them! These are the achievements of the Sustainability Crew over the past 3 years: replaced plastic with paper straws in the canteen, donated \$225 to Carbon Positive Australia, recycled over 8000 litres of materials instead of sending it to landfill and raised over \$650 for the not-for-profit organisation Koomarri. If your child is interested in being a part of the solution, not the pollution, get them to email [samantha.burn@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:samantha.burn@ed.act.edu.au) with their interests.





## Supports Melrose Students

Melrose High School runs a wood turning program as part of its tier two programs, and like most programs, resources are always an issue. I contacted Thor's hammer and they offered to provide me with access to their offcuts which I assumed might be a few dodgy bits of timber in a back shed, I couldn't have been more wrong. There were rows and rows of beautiful hardwood, I only took a small amount, but it will still be enough to run my program for 12 months. Thor's Hammer's support will ensure Melrose High School's wood turning program will be viable into the future.

### What Thor's Hammer is about:

*We reclaim our timbers from historic buildings, wharves & factory demolition sites around Australia from an era when beautiful hardwood species like Spotted Gum, Blackbutt, Ash & Ironbark were used as durable building materials.*

*Our team makes bespoke furniture, joinery & architectural products from these 100% recycled Australian hardwoods.*

*We believe great design is made to be enjoyed, is built to last and doesn't cost the earth.*

*Not being able to see good timber go to waste, Thor Diesendorf started salvaging timber and using it to make furniture in 1994 and Thor's Hammer was born.*

*After 25 years, every decision at Thor's Hammer is still made with the aim to minimise waste and our impact on the environment.*

Melrose says a huge thank you to Thor's Hammer for their support.

Mark Baldwin – Youth Support Worker



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## FUTURE OF EDUCATION EQUITY FUND (FORMERLY THE SECONDARY BURSARY SCHEME)

### 2022 APPLICATIONS

The ACT Government's Future of Education Equity Fund (formerly the Secondary Bursary Scheme) provides financial assistance to low-income families with student(s) in Year 7 to 10 to assist with the costs of schooling. To be eligible, applicants must have a current means tested Centrelink card or Healthcare card.

Application forms are available from schools and Centrelink offices. Electronic copies can be found on the Directorate website at:

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/financial-and-resource-assistance-for-families>

## PUBLIC HEALTH WARNING - DEATH CAP MUSHROOMS IN THE ACT

Death Cap mushrooms are currently growing in the ACT. While the peak growing season is usually autumn, recent years have shown that Death Caps can grow at any time of year depending on weather conditions. Do not touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms. Death Cap mushrooms are one of the world's deadliest mushrooms and can be found across the Canberra region. Since 2002, there have been four deaths and several poisonings in the ACT due to Death Cap mushrooms.

It is difficult to tell the difference between the Death Cap mushroom and edible wild mushrooms. The appearance of Death Cap mushrooms can vary, depending on the stage of growth, weather and other growing conditions. Death Cap mushrooms can look like harmless mushrooms from other parts of the world, such as straw mushrooms.

All parts of the Death Cap mushroom are poisonous and eating part of a mushroom can be fatal. Cooking, soaking, freezing, peeling or drying does not make them safe.

If someone thinks they may have eaten a Death Cap mushroom they must seek urgent medical attention at a hospital emergency department; even if there are no symptoms of ill health. If possible, take any uneaten portion of the mushroom to the hospital.

Please keep children and pets away from wild mushrooms.

If you have seen a Death Cap mushroom in a public place, please report it to Access Canberra on 13 22 81. If you are concerned about wild mushrooms on private land, remove them using gloves and dispose of them in a plastic bag in your rubbish bin. Try to remove the whole mushroom including any part under the ground. Wash your hands afterwards. You will need to monitor the area, as more mushrooms might grow in the same place.

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## KEEPING COVID-19 SAFE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

With everyone getting excited to head into the summer holidays, don't forget to keep COVID-19 safe on public transport.

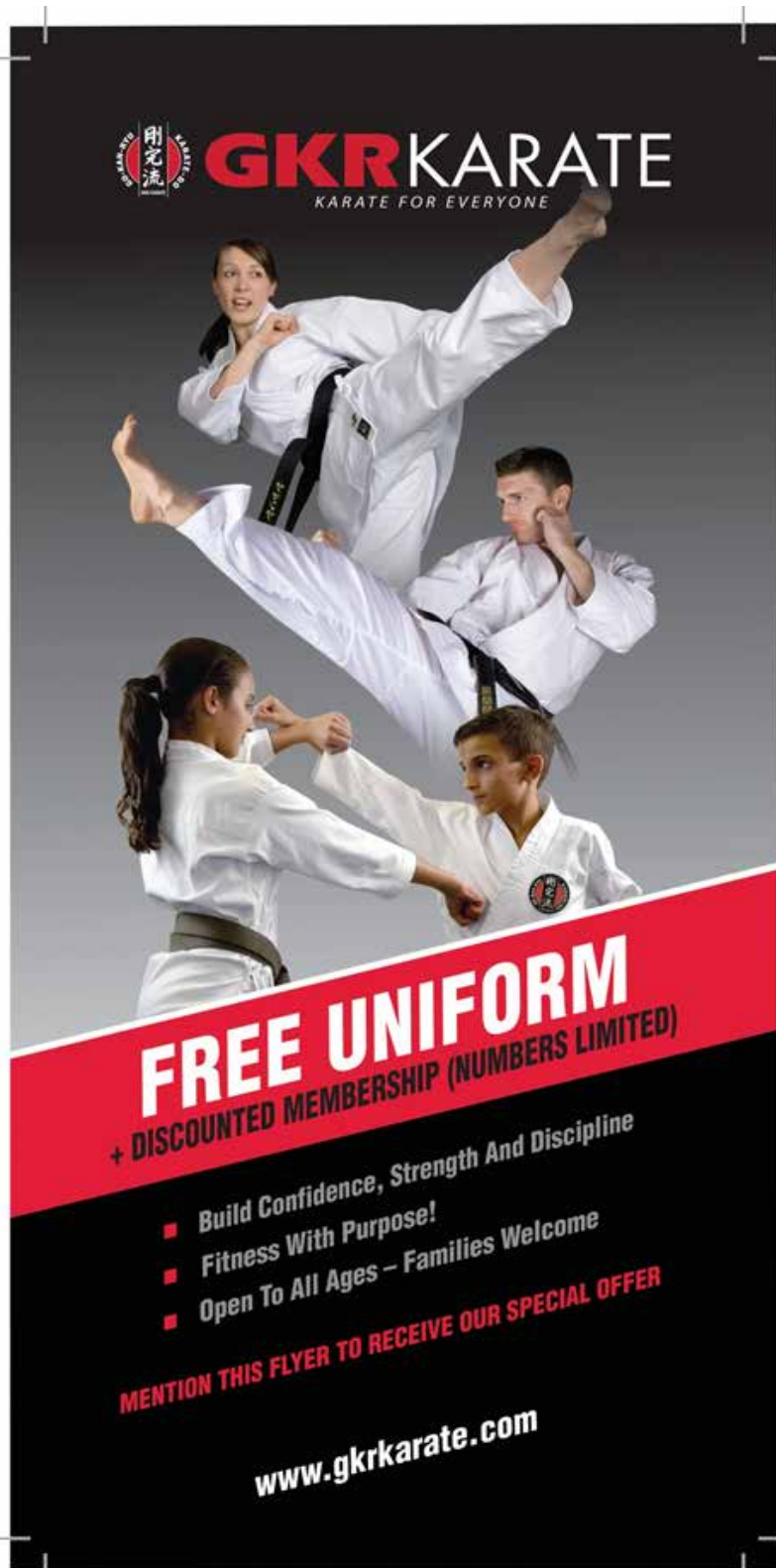
To students catching the bus or light rail to and from school, please continue to:

- Wear a mask on buses and light rail (for those 12 years and over).
- Use the Check in CBR app on all services (for those 16 years and over). If you don't have access to the app, please travel with a registered MyWay card.
- Use the rear doors to enter and exit the bus.
- Spread out on board and leave at least one seat between you and other passengers when you can.

For more information on staying COVID-19 safe on public transport, head to

[COVID-19 transport updates and information – Transport Canberra.](#)





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## WANT TO LEARN KARATE? CLASSES AT MELROSE.

### SPECIAL OFFER!

GKR Karate has classes at Melrose High School on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6.00pm.

Plus there are many other classes through the week nearby.

Beginners are very welcome and now is an awesome time to start.

Coming back from lockdown, we are currently offering a fantastic starting offer: Membership and a Uniform for only \$50 – usually \$155, save \$105!

Once joined, Training is \$19.50 for a single student per week (family discounts apply). Train at as many classes as you wish during the week at any GKR dojo! Joining also includes a free Trial Week.

Classes include both kids and adults – many families train together in the club.

GKR is a traditional karate club promoting fitness, discipline, and practical self defence for children and adults.

We are “non-contact” and encourage a respectful and fun class.

Call or SMS for more information:  
David 0431 801 655

Check our Website: [www.gkrkarate.com](http://www.gkrkarate.com)

If you wanted to learn karate, here's your chance!

## MULTIPLEX JUMP START PROGRAM – STARTING IN THE ACT IN 2022

The Jump Start mentoring program is designed by Multiplex women for female high school students (years 9 to 10) and college students (years 11 to 12). It introduces students to the diverse range of career pathways in the construction industry.

Starting in 2022, students will join the Multiplex delivery team on the largest healthcare infrastructure project ever undertaken by the ACT Government, the Canberra Hospital Extension. For more information, read the Multiplex Jump Start brochure. An expression of interest process will be advertised at the beginning of term 1, 2022. Please contact [samantha.tarlinton@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:samantha.tarlinton@ed.act.edu.au) for information on how to apply.

[Multiplex Jump Start brochure](#)