



PEEL HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WEEK 10, TERM 4 2022

CELEBRATION DAY 2022



Should you need to drop any items off to your child during school hours please drop them into the front office. Students are not permitted to meet you outside school grounds or wait near the front or back gates/fence to collect items from you.

Before School our playgrounds are unsupervised until 8.30am each morning and then only minimal supervision until school begins at 9.00 am.

88 GUNNEDAH RD TAMWORTH NSW 2340 T 67657088

E peel-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

www.peel-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

PRINCIPALS REPORT

This week we celebrated all that is good at Peel High School and I reflect on the achievements of the 2022 school year. I would like to share these words from Celebration Day for the final newsletter of 2022.

“Our students and staff have been involved in a array of activities that have seen them excel academically, on the sporting field, culturally and in the performance arena. We have seen students engage and succeed in academic competitions, Tournament of the Minds, public speaking and debating; they have collaboratively written and illustrated ‘books in a day’, they have run, swum, jumped, bounced, hit, bowled and Bocced their way to success through a plethora of sports, both as participants, coaches and referees, they have fulfilled roles as lines men and women for a number of sports throughout the year and as such have earned individual and team accolades for their involvement at school, regional and state levels.

Shortly after the opening of the beautiful yarning circle, the envy of many schools in Tamworth, early in 2022, Peel High School moved to the Connected Communities Strategy, we have seen our students perform through dance and didge, both here at school and at local events, showcasing their talents and gaining a reputation to be proud of. In 2023 with the support of the staff who lead the Aboriginal Learning and Engagement Centre, Peel High School aims to see the largest cohort of Aboriginal students at Peel High School complete the HSC qualification, as we work towards this important Premier’s Priority.



Recently with the initiative of the careers team realised, Peel High School saw the inaugural Alumni event held, with great success and engagement from past students. The day proceeded and was a tremendous success and the positive feedback instilled the continued impressive post school success of Peel High School students.

During a year of severe worldwide staffing shortages, our staff have shown resilience and commitment to your children, often delivering lessons outside their timetabled quota, delivering lessons to reduce merged and minimally supervised classes and for this I say thank you to all our staff for their efforts and hard work throughout the year supporting students to meet their goals. It is important to recognise that large schools run somewhat like a small business with a host of valuable non-teaching staff whose contribution is essential to the delivery of education. Thank you to the administration team, the assistants in our specialist teaching areas, our School Learning and Support Officers, General Assistants, Farm Assistant, P and C, canteen manager and volunteers - who enable the school to function at its best as they support students, staff and the school community.

Our core business is teaching and learning and next year schools will see the start of curriculum change across all subjects that will span a five year planned cycle. This will inevitably bring change to subject content and skills and see staff engage in professional learning to meet these changes.

We have a number of times this year been required to return to COVID circuit breaker measures to reduce the risk of infection. We know this has impacted staff, students and families and we thank you for working with us through these difficult times.

As a school we have worked extraordinarily hard to ensure that the structures are in place for your children to attend school 90% or more of the time. We rely on you doing the hard yards at home to support them to be here every day and us working together with you to make School an important place for children to learn and develop the necessary skills required for their transition to post school opportunities. Every staff member plays a role in this development and in particular our careers and SBat teams should be thanked for the efforts they put into assisting these processes.

We ask that you, our parents/caregivers, keep working with us in a positive manner because it is when the caregivers and school adults are working in the same direction we can best support our young people to get the best outcomes in life. As we move towards the holiday break, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. I thank you all for your support of Peel High School over the past 12 months and I look forward to seeing you back here in 2023."



Erica Burge

Executive Principal

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/connected-communities/connected-communities-strategy>

CELEBRATION DAY 2023

Peel High School held its Celebration Day awards ceremony on Thursday December 8, where the amazing achievements of our students were acknowledged and celebrated. Here's a collection of some wonderful photos taken that day of some award winners.





KIM FORD - PEEL MEDAL AWARDEE 2022

Kim Ford has been a member of the Peel High School family since 2013, initially working as a member of the administration team before finding her groove as a School Learning and Support Officer.

During Kim's time as a School Administration Officer, she predominantly worked in the back office, where she diligently mastered the demands of working in a busy environment. Kim interacted with students and staff on a daily basis, greeting everyone with a welcoming smile and a 'nothing is too much trouble' attitude, consistently offering her assistance with any task required. Whilst working in the back office she developed strong rapport with the student body, recognising that her passion lay with supporting students and felt that this is where she could make the most difference. This realisation led Kim to explore employment in the role of a School Learning and Support Officer.

Kim is recognised as a trusted staff member who has built incredible rapport with the students she has worked closely with. She has shown unwavering support of our students' educational, social and emotional needs, both inside and outside the classroom, as well as fulfilling her role in the Chillout Program. Her compassion has seen her provide much needed support through her break times to comfort and reassure many students when they have needed it most.

There are many examples abound of the support that Kim has provided to individual students, her colleagues and our school community. Standout moments include Kim's initiative to engage a hair and makeup specialist to ensure that a Year 12 student enjoyed the formal with all the trappings that a young girl deserves during this very important milestone event. That student and her mother were overwhelmed by Kim's kindness. On a very different occasion, following the passing of one of our students, Kim provided roses for staff to say their goodbyes. It is the small but memorable initiatives that Kim recognises and acts upon, ensuring that people are supported when it matters most.

Kim's dedication to improving the skills and lives of young people is commendable. Words and phrases that have been used to describe Kim include kind, caring, compassionate, understanding, non-judgmental, sees the good in all and shares her positive attitude freely to the benefit of all around her. Her gentle and trusting manner enables her to build strong relationships with the students she supports as well as their families. Her calm, grounded and approachable manner has resulted in meaningful and effective relationships with her colleagues.

Kim counts her treasured memories at Peel High School as being recognised with the 2022 Education Week Award for *'outstanding care and attention to student learning and wellbeing'*, being a member of the Peel Welfare Team and the Chill Out Program, but most of all watching two of her very special students walk on stage and graduate Year 12.

Kim has shown unwavering commitment to our students, gaining personal fulfilment from seeing them become strong and productive young adults who are well prepared to contribute to post school life.

2022 is Kim's last year as a full time School Learning and Support Officer at Peel High School. She is looking forward to retirement and beginning a new phase of her life which will involve travel in her caravan, quality time with her grandchildren and relaxation.

Thank you Kim for all that you have done to support innumerable students to engage and reach their potential in their educational journey.

Kim is without a doubt a very worthy recipient of the 2022 Peel Medal.



SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS!

Congratulations to the following students who have been successful in being awarded scholarships to support their high school and tertiary education from 2023.

Caitlin Blanch, from Year 11, is the recipient of the Unions NSW Jeff Shaw Memorial Scholarship, from the Public Education Foundation, a well deserved resource for Caitlin, as she goes into her final year of high school in 2023.

Charlee Marshall, from this year's Year 12 class, is the recipient of a scholarship, from the Ma and Morley Scholarship Program, from the University of Newcastle.

Sophie Day, from Year 8, is a recipient of a Gold Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship for 2023. Sophie was chosen from a pool of 701 applicants, received from 285 schools across Australia.

Sophie's two year scholarship will see her have access to significant resources and practical support from the Harding Miller Education Foundation to support educational achievements and career aspirations. As Sophie moves into Years 11 and 12, she will have opportunity to reapply for her scholarship to be extended into 2025 and 2026.

Sophie and her family will be invited to an Awards Night to celebrate her scholarship in the new year.

Start Dates for 2023

SDD - Friday 27 & Monday 30 January - No students to attend school these days

Years 7, 11 & 12 Start - Tuesday 31 January

Years 8, 9 & 10 Start - Wednesday 1st February



Attendance Roadmap

100%

PERFECT BASE

At school everyday!

You will achieve personal excellence



96%

GOOD

Equates to 7 school days off each year



94%

ON THE WAY

Equates to 11 school days off each year



90%

DANGER ZONE – EDUCATIONALLY AT RISK

Equates to 1 month off each year



80%

EXTREME IMPACT

Equates to 2 months off each year



98%

IMPRESSIVE

Equates to 4 school days off each year



95%

NEARLY THERE

Equates to 9 school days off each year



92%

NEEDS TO IMPROVE

Equates to 15 days off each year



88%

SEVERE IMPACT

Equates to over a month off each year



below 80%

DESTRUCTIVE

Highly challenging to access any learning

- Calculations based on 196 learning days per year

COASTAL EXCURSION

In the early hours of the 28th November, 55 students from Year 10 departed for 5 days of adventure on the Gold Coast. We arrived at the Gold Coast Performance Centre and after quickly settling into our dorms, we divided into groups for our first activity. We enjoyed activities such as swimming and laser skirmish, where the students worked in teams.

Day 2 was jam packed full of new experiences and skill building. We started the day with some Indigenous games on the beach, followed by stand-up paddle boarding, free swimming and beach games. After a quick change we headed into Surfer's Paradise to test our skills at Time Zone, Zone Bowling and Putt Putt.



After a sleep in and breakfast, Day 3 saw the group enter a world of fantasy and fun, meet their favourite superheroes and super-villains, and experience the exhilaration of world class adventure rides and attractions at Warner Bros. Movie World. We finished the day with a fish n chip picnic dinner before heading back to the Gold Coast Performance Centre to unwind and relax with a movie night.

The weather turned for the worst on Day 4, however that didn't stop our explorers who spent the day enjoying the cafes and shops of Pacific Fair.

We were up early on Friday for our long expedition home. Throughout the week we received many compliments on how well our students represented our school, their manners and the respect they showed each other, the venues we visited and their teachers. New friendships were formed and old ones strengthened and we all got to know ourselves and each other a little better. This will serve the group well as we move into the senior school.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Nicola Burmester and Zac Deahm for giving up their week so our group could have this opportunity. A huge thank you also goes out to the classroom teachers here at school who covered classes so that teachers could attend the excursion.

- Bec Robson



LUNCHTIME ADVENTURES

Almost every lunchtime up in the Industrial Arts block, we've been running daily role playing sessions. This has been running consistently for three terms, with over 50 students joining our games at times, and 20 regular students who attend our sessions at least twice a week. On Mondays, we've had all players together, discussing their characters and their adventures, or working out what they'll do in future sessions, while on later days during the week we've narrowed the groups down to a group of students focused on a group of friends in Year 9, another day focusing on a group of friends in Year 11, another group focusing on junior students in Years 7 and 8 and a final group of players who all belong to the school's support unit.

We've found that each of the groups of students has added diversity into the mix, and developed their own playstyles and social exploration. The Year 11 students tend to play more tactically and cooperatively, the Year 9 students engage in the narrative storytelling, and the junior students are still finding their voices. The support students consider the game a safe space to explore their social skills, and through random rolls of the dice are beginning to learn that there are things out of their control, and that sometimes life just doesn't flow in expected ways. Each of the groups is learning that sometimes a story is more interesting when one participant doesn't solely control the narrative, and when everyone gets the chance to add their voice to the community. They learn this individually in their small groups as they solve puzzles, fight monsters and explore the unknown; and they learn this collectively as they share their adventures with the other groups and piece together perspectives to build a bigger picture of the world around them.

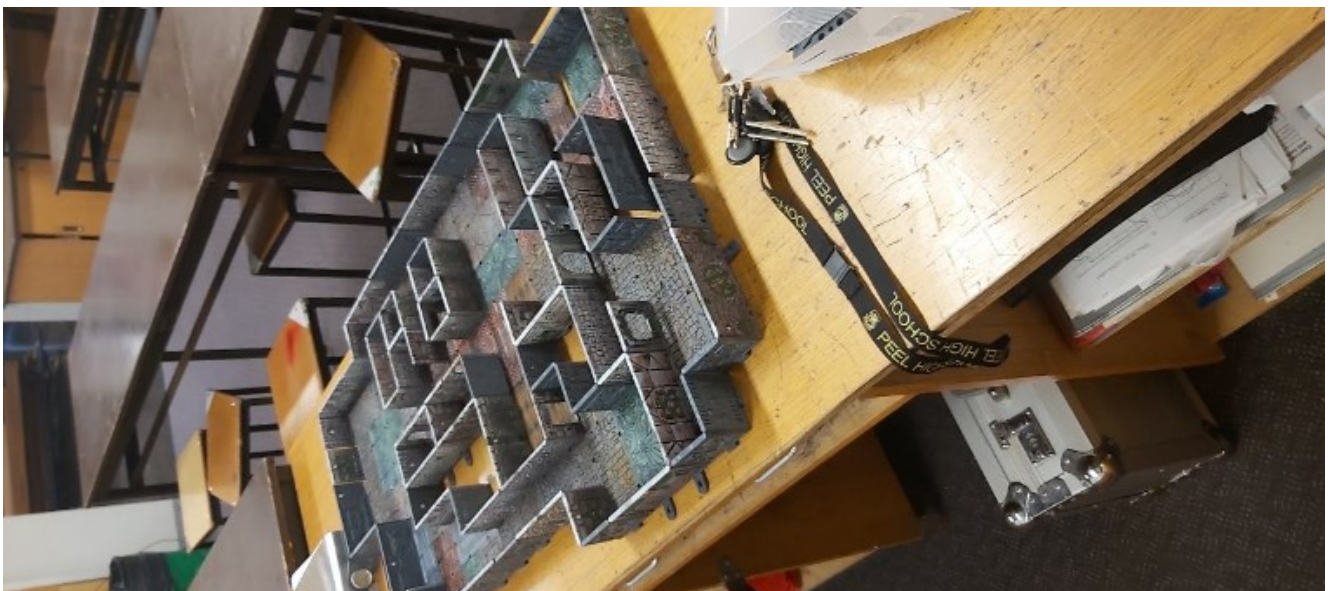
We have played a number of games, including the most commonly known roleplaying-system, Dungeons & Dragons, but we've also orchestrated a science fiction heist game using the Cyberpunk Red System, and developed our own game called The Shattered City. This last game has seen input from all the students and the first booklets of the system will be ready to publish before school goes back in early 2023. The Shattered City has been specifically designed as a game where simple stories can be played out over a lunchbreak, but extended sessions during a sport slot are hoped to be tested soon. Students have helped contribute to descriptions of locations and key people in the setting, and have provided maps and pictures of the world where the stories are being told.



Imagination is being fostered, cooperation is expected, and research is encouraged. If the students do well in their study of historical cultures in our world, or the patterns of geography, they can incorporate this into their world building. If they do well in mathematical statistics or probability, they will better understand the systems that govern play in their games. Those students excelling in English are encouraged to write about the stories of their characters in the world, or establish stories and lore that help to define the world, while those excelling artistically are encouraged to draw or paint the characters and the places they encounter. Everything in the game is directed back at the studies of the students, so that it helps to form a support for their studies rather than a distraction.

At the moment, the program is still a work in progress but we have had noticeable improvement among a number of students socialising across the school outside their immediate peer groups, and providing a safe liminal space for exploring concepts like identity, how working against people can lead to conflict and problems, and how working together using each other's strengths can lead to success. By exploring these concepts through characters, rather than needing to expose themselves to the world, anything that goes wrong can be dismissed as part of the story, anything that goes right can be used for encouragement and support, and everything in the game can be used as a valuable learning experience .

- Michael Wenman



SUCCESSFUL BASKETBALL SEASON



Peel High School had another successful basketball season in Terms Three and Four. Four boys teams and one girls team participated in the Wednesday competition held at the Sports Dome by the Tamworth Basketball Association .

Our 9/10 girls team Peel Pistons, led by Nanindi Knox, defeated Calrossy teams in both their minor semi-final and playoff to make the grand final. This was a fantastic achievement! We lost the final to an overpowered team of representative basketball players, where we did well to score more than 20 points.

Our 7/8 boys team Peel Boomers, led by Ryan Shanley, played in B grade and went into the finals in fourth position. We then defeated third place (Farrer Bulls) in the minor semi-final, defeated second place (THS) in the playoff and defeated first place (Farrer Giants) in the final. Congratulations to the boys for a great finish to the season!

Our three 9/10 boys teams all had very respectable seasons. The Peel Bucket Squad in B grade, led by Zac Spreadborough, finished fourth, losing a close minor semi-final to Farrer. The Peel Prodigies, also in B grade and led by Liam Walden, lost their final to Carinya and finished in sixth. The Peel Cavaliers in C grade, led by Brodhi Davis, were down by 16 in their final and came back to tie the score and put the game into overtime. They easily outscored their opponents in overtime to earn fifth place.

Next year we will have new basketball jerseys for the boys. The previous design was changed and we will instead have a reversible jersey and shorts. The cost will be kindly reduced by the P&C to around \$45 in total.

I'm looking forward to another great year for Peel basketball in 2023!

-Alex Baird (Basketball Coordinator)



THUNDERBOLTS GET PEEL STARS!

Congratulations to Nanindi Knox, Ryan Shanley and Ethan Haines for being selected for Tamworth Thunderbolts representative teams!

We wish them the best of luck in their 2023 season!

-Alex Baird (Basketball Coordinator)

TAS' YEAR IN REVIEW

It has been a delightful year for the TAS Faculty with many catering events and projects being develop by students. A huge congratulations to all of our Year 12 students who in Term 3 submitted their Year 12 major works. We are so proud of their achievements, how far they have come and hope they are rewarded for their diligence and dedication to their projects and work.

During Term 3 Danielle Gaynor joined the faculty and at the start of Term 4 we welcomed Emily Woods. Both ladies are pleased to be working at the school and within the TAS Faculty as they join us again next year, we look forward to the impact they will have in the future. At the end of this term, we farewell Renu Pandey from our faculty, we thank her very much for her efforts over the year teaching the students many wonderful cooking skills. We wish her well on her next adventure.

The hard work of our students has not gone unnoticed, Williamsburg vouchers were gifted to the students who have shown great strengths and commitment over the course of the school year within the TAS Faculty. Students include; Kurtis Laidlaw, Charlotte Larkin, Lucy Henry-Berryman, Riley Weber, Ella Hawkins, Riley Smith-Hall, Chloe Vera, Janealle Parrenas, Dakota Williams, Lyndell Williams, Noah Beecham, Simone Greatbatch, Grant Goodchild, Denzel Kelman, Chloe Moss, Peyton Abra, Bodin Wallace, Marielle Aquino, Oliver Smith and Braydon Allan.

- Emily Woods



A THANK YOU FROM MRS DIRCKS

Upon my retirement on 30th June 2022, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Peel staff, particularly our TAS Faculty, Science (staff room buddies) and the ladies from Support for their kindness and support over many years. I was hoping to slip out of school unnoticed without any fuss, but it was not to be. On Tuesday the 28th Mrs Hartley, Mrs Pandey, and Mrs Lawton cooked up an amazing surprise extravaganza of an afternoon tea, with the help of willing students. There were beautiful flowers and cake, I felt very spoilt. Special thanks to Mrs Lawton for the beautiful cake, and for picking up my Yr 12 Hospitality class, the 6 students are very lucky to have you back. Thank you for the kind words from Mr New and Mrs Burge at the staff morning tea, and gifts from the school, much appreciated.

Lastly, thank you to the many students who have shown an interest in cookery, courtesy, respect and a conscientious work ethic in classes at Peel, you have made teaching worthwhile to me.



TALENTED SPORTS STARS

This year, the Northern Inland Academy of Sport (NIAS) celebrated 30 years of 'developing potential on and off the field', providing over 4000 athletes and 400 coaches across the region with opportunities, pathways, and experiences through sport, positively influencing and impacting many more stakeholders along the way. NIAS recently undertook a generic Talent Identification Day in Tamworth, as well as conducted a number of sport specific selection trials for its various programs in 2023. The following athletes and coaches from Peel High School have been included in the respective talent pathway programs:

- Ryan Shanley (Basketball)
- Peyton Abra (Hockey)
- Delika Boney (Netball)

Congratulations to these talented students.

Extended Leave

PHS requires an 'Application For Extended Leave - Travel' Form to be completed when a student is going to be absent from school for an extended period of time - 1 Week or more (this leave may be due to a holiday etc..)

Any parent/carer wishing to take their child on extended leave can collect a form from the Front Office.

Form must be completed by a Parent/Carer and returned for Principal approval, prior to leave commencing

LOWES WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE...

NSW BACK TO SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM

What is covered by NSW back to school program?

3 x \$50 Vouchers

Eligible purchases are limited
to the following

School uniforms (K-12)

- Your complete school uniform
- Hats
- Socks
- Shoes
- Umbrellas
- Raincoats

Trade Schools (pathway program)

- High Vis Polo Tops and Shirts
- Industrial Pants and Shorts
- Steel Cap Boots
- Socks Protectors
- Safety Equipments

***T&Cs Apply. No returns, exchanges
in accordance with our returns policy**



STAY TUNED!

ONCE THE NSW SERVICES APP
RELEASES THE PROGRAM, REDEEM
YOUR VOUCHERS INSTORE OR ONLINE



Tamworth Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group



The TLAECG welcomes you to attend our local meetings. We encourage our mob to participate in the consultative and decision-making process of education and training for our children.

We are members of the North West 2 Regional AECG and the NSW AECG.

If you would like to attend and/or become a member, please feel free to attend at the times and locations below.

If you would like to present at our meetings or would like any further information, please email our secretary on laecg.secretary@gmail.com.

Meetings start at 4:15pm

Term 1	Week 3 (4) 15 th February	Tamworth HS
	Week 8 22 nd March	Oxley HS
Term 2	Week 3 10 th May	Tamworth PS
	Week 8 14 June	Bullimbal
Term 3	Week 3 2 nd August	Tamworth South PS
	Week 8 6 th September	Parry School
Term 4	Week 3 25 th October	Hillvue PS
	Week 8 29 th November	Peel HS

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

February 21

2023 University Showcase Tour 12pm

January 31	School Starts for Years 7, 11 & 12
February 1	School Starts for Years 8, 9 & 10
February 6	P&C Uniform Shop Open 8:30am-11am
February 13-15	Year 7 Camp 8am
February 13	P&C Uniform Shop Open 8:30am-11am
February 16	Twilight Swimming Carnival 2:30pm - 7pm
February 20	P&C Uniform Shop Open 8:30am-11am
February 20	P&C Meeting 6pm

A REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS, PARENTS & CARERS WHEN VISITING PEEL HIGH SCHOOL

- If you need to bring items to students at school, they are to be dropped off at the front office.
 - No takeaway food is to be delivered to school for students during the school day.
- If you wish to meet with a staff member, please make an appointment through the front office.
 - No visitors are to access the Peel High School site without signing in at the front office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

- Erica Burge (Executive Principal)

PHS P&C Uniform Shop open **EVERY MONDAY** between 8:30am and 11am.

Pop in and see Tracey Towill for all your uniform needs.

The P&C meet every third Monday of the month at 6pm (except Public Holidays & School Holidays)

NSW Department of Education

Calendar 2023



January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Key dates

* Check with your school as starting and finishing dates may change.



Term start and end dates*

Term 1 (Eastern): 27 January to 6 April



Term 1 (Western): 3 February to 6 April

Term 2: 24 April to 30 June

Term 3: 17 July to 22 September

Term 4: 9 October to 19 December



School development days

Term 1 (Eastern): 27 January and 30 January

Term 1 (Western): 3 February and 6 February

Term 2, 3 and 4: 24 April, 17 July, 18 December and 19 December



School vacation dates

Summer (Eastern): 21 December 2022 to 26 January 2023



Summer (Western): 21 December 2022 to 2 February 2023

Autumn: 10 April to 21 April

Winter: 3 July to 14 July

Spring: 25 September to 6 October

Summer (Eastern): 20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024

Summer (Western): 20 December 2023 to 5 February 2024



Exam dates

Selective high school placement test: 4 May

NAPLAN online test window: 15 March to 27 March

Opportunity class placement test: 27 July



Public holidays



Scan me for practical school tips!

To help your child get the most out of their school year and to explore our resources, check out our going to school hub at education.nsw.gov.au/going-to-school

School zone speed limits apply on all school days, including school development days.

