



# PEEL HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WEEK 6, TERM 1 2024

## WELCOME TO 2024!



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.

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

[www.peel-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.peel-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

# PRINCIPALS REPORT

Welcome to Peel HS in 2024,

A particularly special welcome to our new year 7 students who are joining the Peel High School family. They have already had a great time at their orientation camp and are settling into high school well.

I am currently in the Acting Principal role as Ms Burge has taken a different direction for 2024 and the Principal role is currently being advertised. I would like to extend my thanks to Ms Burge for her contributions to Peel High School as Principal.

We have had a great start to the year. The students look amazing in their uniforms and have come well prepared for their lessons. There have been eight core expectations that have been reinforced across the school and they are outlined below. You can support your child by talking to them about these expectations and reinforcing their importance in providing a calm and effective learning environment for all.

The Peel High School Learning Environment Expectations are:

- 1) Be on time and ready to learn with equipment
- 2) Line up for class and wait for your teacher
- 3) Hats and bags off in class
- 4) Sit in assigned seat ready to listen and learn
- 5) No food or drink in classrooms except for water
- 6) Notes are needed to leave the classroom
- 7) Leave the room tidy when dismissed
- 8) Complete all set homework and assessments

We have a number of new teaching staff this year which we would also like to welcome into the Peel family. They are:

- Craig Louwen – HSIE
- Wayne Woods – HSIE
- Rachael Eriksson – Relieving Support Head Teacher
- Amber Gordon – Maths/TAS
- Jarrod Linton – PE
- Jeffrey Wong – Maths
- Kylie Butler – Support
- Tracy Wong – Support
- Kayla Ellery – Stage 4 Class

Additionally, we have added some additional office staff and I would like to welcome Danna Diver, Kylie Kemenyvary and Natalie Craig to the team.

We would also like to welcome back Ms Sherlock and Ms Gunn from leave.

We start 2024 on firm foundations. Peel High School achieved some outstanding HSC results at the end of 2023. Our top ranked student, Finley Wallace, achieved an incredible 98.4 in his ATAR.

There were other fantastic results as well, with Nina Huang achieving 94.95, Caitlin Blanch received 94.7 and Neeve Davies received 88 for their ATAR. Each of these results are a testament to the dedication of these students and the support from their teachers.

High ATAR's are not the only valid measure of student success. We also saw a huge improvement in the number of students who achieved their HSC. There were also a significant number of students who completed School Based Apprenticeships. I would like to congratulate all these students on their success and wish them the best for their futures.

The school also underwent a reorganisation at the end of 2023 with the Support Unit moving to a new set of demountables. This significant change has meant that a number of other faculties were reorganised to better deliver education to our students.

Peel High School conducted its annual swimming carnival on the 15th February. It was a great carnival with lots of enthusiasm from the students. Unfortunately, the carnival was cut short due to the presence of lightning, however most events were successfully completed.

I would like to thank Mr Hodgson and the PE team for their efforts. The 2024 swimming carnival will be the final twilight swimming carnival. The 2025 carnival is booked as a day event. This will mean that all students will be expected at school the day after the 2025 carnival.

Excursions permission and payments can now be made through School Bytes software. This allows families to conveniently manage extra-curricular activities even via your phone. More information will be made available to help guide families in using this software.

Coming up we have the Peel High School Open Day on Saturday March 16. This is the annual event where we invite the community to visit Peel High School. It is always a day that makes us feel proud to be part of this fantastic school. I hope to see you there.

I hope your holidays were a restful one and that we are all energised to have a safe, happy and productive term.

Chris Keenan

Acting Principal


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



**PEEL HIGH SCHOOL**

## AFTER-SCHOOL HOMEWORK CENTRE

*Collect permission notes from the library!*



**WEDNESDAYS 3:20PM - 5PM  
@ THE LIBRARY**

All students are encouraged to attend Homework Centre in the library where they can work on class work, assessments and study with the assistance of their teachers! Snacks and afternoon bus-drop off for local students is provided free of charge.

**PEEL HIGH SCHOOL**

## AFTER-SCHOOL SENIOR STUDY SESSIONS

*No sign up needed - just turn up when you can!*



**TUESDAYS 3:20PM - 5PM  
@ THE LIBRARY**

Year 11 and 12 students are encouraged to attend Senior Study Sessions in the library where they can work on class work, assessments and study with the assistance of their teachers! Snacks are provided free of charge.

# YEAR 7 COFFS HARBOUR ADVENTURE

On the 12th - 14th of February, 55 Year 7 students and 4 teachers made their way on a double decker bus to the Coffs Coast Adventure Centre in Coffs Harbour.

Students learnt a lot about working together as a team and building resilience that they will be able to take through with them on their high school journey.

Students were able to participate in multiple activities that would test their confidence and push them into situations to help build their teamwork skills and get to know each other better.

The adventurous activities students were involved in consisted of: Z-Ball, Team Rescue, Survivor, The Giant Swing, Commando Course, Skywire and the crowd favourite, the Mud Mile.

On the last day we made our way over to the Coffs Coast Wildlife Sanctuary where students learnt about sustainability of our oceans and the sea life around us. Students were given a tour of the Sanctuary followed by an up-close encounter with the Dolphins that have been rescued. Students had the pleasure of watching the Dolphin show, feeding the Dolphins, touching the Dolphins and being splashed by them.

Overall, they had the best time, new friendships were formed, and students will be able to have these memories and use their team building and resilience skills throughout their high school life.

Massive thanks to all teachers, parents and carers who put in the effort to make this excursion happen.





# PEEL HIGH SCHOOL

100%  
AT SCHOOL  
EVERY DAY!  
YOU CAN  
ACHIEVE  
PERSONAL  
EXCELLENCE!

100%  
DHIRRABUU  
"VERY FLASH"

90%  
EQUATES TO 20  
DAYS OFF EACH  
YEAR OR 100  
HOURS OF LOST  
LEARNING TIME

90%  
DHIRRA  
"FLASH"

85%  
NEEDS  
IMPROVEMENT

80%  
DANGER  
ZONE

80%  
EQUATES TO  
40 DAYS OFF  
EACH YEAR OR  
200 HOURS OF  
LOST LEARNING  
TIME

75%  
DAMAGING  
IMPACT

70%  
SEVERE  
IMPACT

70%  
EQUATES TO  
60 DAYS OFF  
EACH YEAR OR  
300 HOURS OF  
LOST LEARNING  
TIME

65%  
CRITICAL  
IMPACT

60%  
EXTREME  
IMPACT

60%  
EQUATES TO  
80 DAYS OFF  
EACH YEAR OR  
400 HOURS OF  
LOST LEARNING  
TIME

BELOW 50%  
HIGHLY  
CHALLENGING  
TO ACCESS  
ANY LEARNING

BELOW  
50%  
DESTRUCTIVE



## YOUR ATTENDANCE MATTERS

# SUPPORT UNIT “POPS” INTO ART

The students of the Support Unit have been creating some amazing artworks inspired by the POP Art, art movement.

Students were asked to select an image of popular culture for their focal point and use either warm or cool colours for the background.

The end results were an impressive array of individualized artworks. Here are some of the amazing finished products.





## *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



# NAPLAN 2024

## ***Important Information in regards to NAPLAN testing for 2024!***

Year 7 and 9 students will sit the NAPLAN tests in Weeks 7 and 8 of this term. Peel High School will complete the NAPLAN tests online. More information on the tests is available on following pages of the newsletter.

### **All students in NSW are expected to sit the NAPLAN tests.**

Peel High School strongly encourages you to support your child's participation. The NAPLAN results will help our school to identify the learning needs of our students.

**Students can be exempted from doing the tests if they:**

- are new to Australia with a language background other than English,

or

- have an intellectual disability or medical condition which severely limits their ability to participate in the tests.

Students may also be withdrawn from the NAPLAN tests by their parent or carer.

If you wish to withdraw your child, you need to discuss this with the principal and sign a consent form.

If your child has disability adjustments in class, they can have similar adjustments for the NAPLAN tests.

If you think your child should have disability adjustments for the NAPLAN, please phone the school to discuss the available options.

**For more information on the NAPLAN tests, please view the following pages of this newsletter.**

## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight  

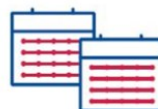

= **4** weeks



= Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week  


= **8** weeks



= Over **2.5** years missed

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## NAPLAN 2024 parent and carer information

Each year the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses the literacy and numeracy skills of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Students participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN 2024 will take place from **Wednesday 13 March** to **Monday 25 March**.

NAPLAN provides an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. The tests assess literacy and numeracy skills your child is already learning at school. The tests are just one aspect of our school's learning, assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

In preparation for NAPLAN, our school will undertake activities to help students become familiar with the format and functionality of the online tests. These activities are not an assessment of student ability and will not be marked.

The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day. Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not required nor recommended.

The public demonstration site (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) is available to see the types of questions, tools and functions used in the NAPLAN tests.

Further information about NAPLAN is available on the NESA website (<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/understanding-the-curriculum/naplan/parent-information>).

If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact the school.

# Disability adjustment information for parents and carers - NAPLAN 2024

Disability adjustments are available for NAPLAN to enable students with disability to participate on the same basis as other students.

The adjustments provided for NAPLAN should reflect the type of support and assistance your child is already receiving for classroom assessments. However, some adjustments are not available for NAPLAN tests where they may compromise the skills being tested. For example, a support person cannot read questions or stimulus material to your child in the reading or conventions of language tests.

If you have a child with disability, the first step is to talk to your child's teacher about disability adjustment options. You will need to provide a signed parent/carer consent form for any adjustments. Many of the adjustments are at the discretion of the school but some adjustments require your child's school to make an application to NESA.

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## Available disability adjustments

**Rest breaks** may be provided to students with disability who may experience fatigue during assessments. Your child's test time will be paused for the duration of the rest break.

**Extra test time** may be provided for students with disability who are usually provided with additional time to complete classroom assessments.

A **NAPLAN support person** may assist a student with disability to access the reading, conventions of language and numeracy tests if they usually work with a support person for assessments.

A **Scribe** may assist a student with disability to complete the writing test only. The scribe and student must be familiar with the NAPLAN scribe rules. The student must regularly work with a scribe in the classroom. A student with a temporary injury, such as a broken arm, may **not** have a scribe assist in completing the test.

An **Oral/sign support person** may assist a student with a hearing impairment by reading or signing some sections of the tests.

**Alternative items – audio** may also be appropriate for students with a hearing impairment as spelling questions that rely on audio will be replaced with proofreading spelling questions.

**Alternative items – visual** may be appropriate for students with a vision impairment as simplified or enlarged images can be provided. A zoom function is available for all students to magnify the screen.

**Assistive technology** may be approved for students who need to use their own assistive technology. Only technology that does not interfere with the validity of the test can be approved.

**Colour themes** are available for students who normally access classroom assessments with colour contrast themes. Please see our five colour themes available on the [public demonstration site](#)\* to assess whether they meet your child's needs. Alternatively, if the available colour themes do not meet your child's needs, please contact your child's school to apply for **Colour contrast modification** to use their own device's settings or software to change the screen colour.

\*[www.nap.edu.au/naplan/public-demonstration-site](http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/public-demonstration-site)

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## Next steps / questions

Please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible if you are unsure whether the online NAPLAN tests are accessible for your child or if you have any questions.

# SAY CHEESE

**School Photo Day is:**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

## **HAVE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL MEMORIES CAPTURED FOREVER!**

Please take the time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment forms and remember these helpful points:

- Online Ordering only – if you cannot order online please call (02) 6772 3519 to arrange an alternate payment.
- Sibling forms are available at the school office upon request.
- Sibling photos will be packed inside the eldest child's individual photo pack.



**For photo day queries please call our  
friendly staff on (02) 6772 3519**



**Tamworth FC Player Registration is now open!**  
Players from all ages are welcome to register to play football with Tamworth FC for the 2024 season.

- Entry Level (5-7 years) - \$120
- Junior Level (8-11 years) - \$130
- Youth Level (12-14 years) - \$170
- Youth Level (15-16 years) - \$190
- Youth playing Seniors (15-18 years) - \$230

Visit "Player Central" on our website ([www.tamworthfc.sportingpulse.net](http://www.tamworthfc.sportingpulse.net)) for links to register online or visit [www.playfootball.com.au](http://www.playfootball.com.au)

If you would like any further information in regard to the 2024 season registrations, please contact the club via email at [tamworthfc@northerninlandfootball.net.au](mailto:tamworthfc@northerninlandfootball.net.au) or call Brent May on 0417 205 430.

# Rotary Youth Exchange

Discover the world, become a Rotary Youth Exchange Student.

Gain new perspectives, make lifelong connections, and foster peace.

- **Short Term Exchange** - 3 months to Germany. Depart Oct 2024
- **Long Term Exchange** - 12 months to multiple country options. Depart Jan 2025

## How to find out more

- Visit our website - [ryea.org.au](http://ryea.org.au) to submit your Expression of Interest...
- Email Nikki - [assistchairyepd9660@gmail.com](mailto:assistchairyepd9660@gmail.com)
- Call Nikki - 0439 249 574
- or contact your local Rotary Club



# RE-EDGE-UCATE

## Parent Evening Session

We all want the same thing for our kids.  
A happy and productive young person who is  
confident on their pathway.



Reality is different.

Young people are **crippled** by choice but not  
choosing anything.

Pathways have **changed** since our days.

Employers are **frustrated**.

It's overwhelming and as a parent we need to help  
them navigate their pathways.

Join me, a parent, former careers advisor and creator of  
EDGE Job Ready Workshops for one night, supported  
by the Educational Pathways Program with local  
employers to hear their perspective on what they're  
**really after** and how to get your teen **ahead** of the pack.

Find out the opportunities that exist for your teen  
in Tamworth for 2024

When: Thursday, 7th of March 6pm- 8pm

Where: The Press, Tamworth

How: Free Limited tickets -  
Register via Eventbrite- Scan QR code



  
SHARNA DAWSON

Educational Pathways Program



**UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS**

March 5	P&C Uniform Shop - 8:30am - 9:30am	March 26	P&C Uniform Shop - 8:30am - 9:30am
March 7	School Photo Day	March 29	Good Friday
March 8	School Photo Catch Up Day	April 1	Easter Monday
March 12	P&C Uniform Shop - 8:30am - 9:30am	April 9	P&C Uniform Shop - 8:30am - 9:30am
March 13 - 25	NAPLAN Testing		
March 18	P&C Meeting - 6pm		
March 19	P&C Uniform Shop - 8:30am - 9:30am		
March 21	Youth Leadership Academy Conference - 6am		

## **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.

- Chris Keenan (Acting Principal)

**PHS P&C Uniform Shop** open **TUESDAYS FROM 8:30am - 9:30am**

Pop in and see Sue 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



# School Planner 2024

Tear here

Term 1	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday / Sunday
January / February	1	School holiday 29	Term 1 begins for Eastern division schools School development day for Eastern division schools 30	School development day for Eastern division schools 31	1	2	3/4
February	2	5	Term 1 for Western division schools School development day for Western division schools 6	School development day for Western division schools 7	8	9	10/11
February	3	12	13	14	15	16	17/18
February	4	19	20	21	22	23	24/25
February / March	5	26	27	28	29	1	2/3
March	6	4	5	6	7	8	9/10
March	7	11	12	13	14	15	16/17
March	8	18	19	20	21	22	23/24
March	9	25	26	27	28	Good Friday 29	Easter Saturday Easter Sunday 30/31
April	10	Easter Monday 1	2	3	4	5	6/7
April	11	8	9	10	11	12	13/14

Tear here



**Scan me for practical school tips!**  
Help your child get the most out of their school year and to explore our resources.  
[education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers](https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers)



**Scan me for key dates**  
[education.nsw.gov.au/calendars](https://education.nsw.gov.au/calendars)

**School development days**  
Students do not attend school.  
Please check with your school to find out specific dates for these days.

