

Year 6 Graduation

As we proudly witness the culmination of a significant chapter in their educational journey, we celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of our bright Year 6 graduates. Throughout their academic adventure, these young minds have not only embraced knowledge but have also forged lasting friendships and cultivated essential skills for the road ahead. Join us in celebrating their achievements as they move onto Secondary School. Congratulations Graduates!

Stay tuned for the wrap-up on Schoolbox next week.



Staff Farewell

In this series of articles, we take a heartfelt journey through their professional milestones, cherished memories, and the profound impact they have left on our school. Join us in celebrating the rich legacy they leave behind as we say goodbye.



Shona Hiscock – School Registrar

Shona Hiscock commenced at Bacchus Marsh Grammar in 2000 as School Registrar. Upon Shona's appointment, the School's enrolment sat at approximately 450 students. The School's total enrolment upon her leaving is 3,400 with a Prep to Year 12 Campus at Maddingley, and the Woodlea Campus which is now Prep to Year 9 and will expand to Year 12 in the coming years.

Shona was instrumental in the growth of the school who with Andrew Neal, Liz O'Day and Michelle Graham attended 'open nights' at schools and brought the 'BMG Roadshow' to the Werribee, Keilor Downs, Sydenham and Taylors Hill areas.

Together with her role as Registrar, Shona was also the school's first bus coordinator with 1 minibus to the Werribee area, the fleet this year has over 30 buses transporting 2,000 plus students to and from the Maddingley and Woodlea Campuses from the wider Western Melbourne suburbs.

Amongst many of Shona's achievements over the years was her tireless work in filling positions for the Woodlea Campus with students commencing at Maddingley for a year whilst Woodlea was being built. It is a testament to Shona's people skills that so many parents were willing to trust the process and sign their children up for a school that had not yet been built.

Shona's empathy towards families was exceptional, she always said that she put herself in the parent's shoes and treated each family with respect, care and compassion.

Shona, you will be greatly missed by the BMG Community, the Administration team will miss your cups of tea, chats and hugs. Shona has truly been the “face of Bacchus Marsh Grammar” for many families.

We wish Shona all the best on her retirement and hope that it is a long and happy one with her husband Steve.

Mrs Michelle Graham - Director of Administration

Dean Thomas – Teacher



It is with mixed emotions that we acknowledge the departure of Mr. Dean Thomas, a quietly remarkable individual who has devoted 18 years to the Bacchus Marsh Grammar community. Dean started his journey with us in 2005 as an instrumental music teacher, specialising in piano, and later transitioned into the classroom setting.

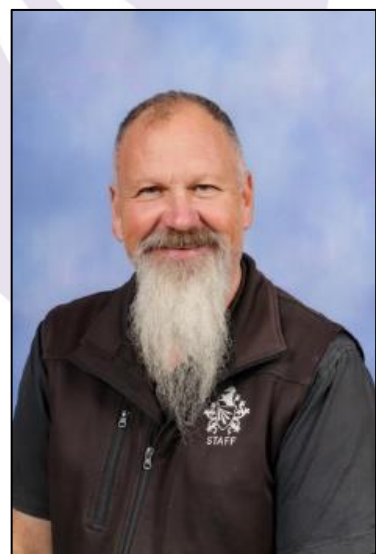
In 2010, Dean took on the role of Director of Music, a position he held for eight years. Throughout his tenure, he played a pivotal role in the expansion of the Music Department, introducing initiatives such as incorporating IT into the BMG Music curriculum. Additionally, he spearheaded the introduction and delivery of VCE Music Investigation and played a key role in the establishment and growth of the VCE/VET Music Industry (Performance) course, now entering its tenth year.

Since joining in 2005, Dean's contributions to every Senior School musical production have been significant, whether as a keyboardist or as the Musical Director, his musical talents and dedication added a distinctive touch to each of these productions. Despite being a fixture at Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Dean's exceptional skills as a musician are often underappreciated.

As we bid farewell to Dean, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for his years of service. We recognise his discomfort with praise, but his impact on our community has been profound. We wish him the very best in his future endeavours. Bacchus Marsh Grammar has been enriched by someone of his calibre, and while we will miss his contributions, we hope his next chapter is as fulfilling as the legacy he leaves behind. From all of us here in the BMG Music Department, we thank Dean for his unwavering dedication and wish him the very best at his new school.

Mr Troy Westgarth – Head of Faculty: Music and Performing Arts

Peter Hexter – Teacher



I am writing to inform the school community that Peter Hexter is about to commence the next phase of his teaching career in a position much closer to home. Peter commenced work at Bacchus Marsh Grammar in 2001 as a primary school Physical Education teacher and a Secondary School Wood Technology teacher. Peter has held a range of Positions of Leadership including, Head of Year 8 and Head of Year 10, and the staff's Occupational Health and Safety representative for a period of almost 15 years. As Peter bids farewell, it is with gratitude for the invaluable contributions made over the years. His unwavering dedication, passion and expertise have left a significant impression in Wood Technology, Systems Technology and the Product Design and Technology faculty at Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

One obsession of Peter's is his involvement with Flight and Flight Technology. Peter has engaged many students in the Flight Technology subject, both in fixed wing and rotary flight. Quite often, you would see Peter and his students trialing their drones

and model aircraft on the southern oval - as Peter would testify, with varies levels of success. Peter's attention to detail in the development of the students' design and construction skills of their models has been appreciated by his students.

The guidance Peter has provided in relation to his role as the staff OH&S representative has always been professional and invaluable. The camaraderie he fostered will be dearly missed. While we bid farewell to a long-serving staff member, Peter's presence will forever resonate within this school. We wish Peter all the success in the next chapter of his teaching career.

Mr Kevin Richardson - Executive Deputy Principal

Notices

Key School Information 2023/2024

Administration Office Hours/Closure

Please be advised that the School will close for the Christmas Holidays on Thursday 14 December 2023 at 12.00noon.

- **Maddingley Administration Office** will re-open Monday 8 January 2023 to Thursday 25 January 2024 between 9:30am to 3:30pm.
- **Woodlea Administration Office** will re-open on Monday 29 January 2024. (The office remains closed to the public for the term break).

2024 Term Dates

Available on the school's website.

Uniform Shopping - outlet locations, dates and hours for January 2024:

Available on the school website - under [Uniform](#).

Junior and Middle School Handbooks

The 2024 Handbooks can be accessed from the school's website under [School Publications](#) from 12 December 2023.

2023 Semester Two reports

Previously, reports have been provided in both digital and hardcopy formats. As a result of community feedback, we will be providing reports in digital format only, as the default. If parents still wish to receive a paper copy, they may request this by emailing: reports@bmg.vic.edu.au. We trust that families will appreciate this more convenient format which has the added bonus of reducing our environmental footprint.

We anticipate that the digital copies of reports, accessed via Schoolbox, should be available by Friday 15 December, with paper copies to follow after the Christmas shut down period. Should any unforeseen technical issues prevent this, further communication will be made.

New Families and Access to Schoolbox

Login details will distributed to new families in the second week on January 2024 via email from ictservice@bmg.vic.edu.au.

The email is titled 'MyBMG - Parent Portal Details 2024' and will include links to a video with information on using Schoolbox and the myBMG Parent Portal.

Mrs Casey Ryder - Executive Assistant: Maddingley

Maddingley Campus Car Park Entry at Gate 1

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of our school community, we would like to bring to your attention an important matter regarding the intersection of South Maddingley Road and Gate 1.

Recently, there has been an increase in the number of pedestrians utilizing this intersection, especially during peak drop-off and pick-up times. The safety of our staff, students and their families is our top priority, and we kindly request your cooperation in ensuring a safe environment for everyone.

To enhance pedestrian safety at this intersection, we kindly ask that you slow down when approaching and navigating through this area. Your attentiveness and adherence to the speed limit will contribute to the overall safety of pedestrians, including our students and their families, as they cross this intersection.

Please be aware that if you act in an unsafe manner, a breach notice may be issued as per the School Community Code of Conduct. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Ms Kerryn Browne - Risk, Compliance and Policy Manager

2024 Booklists

The 2024 Booklist provider is Champion Education. It is strongly recommended that all items are obtained through Champion Education. This will avoid unnecessary problems with reliability of materials, especially textbooks.

To access and order online, please click the link below:

Maddingley Campus

VY24

<https://order.champion.com.au/?school-code=D05ABC3C>

Woodlea Campus

GF8C

<https://order.champion.com.au/?school-code=81154C99>

There will not be a dedicated 'booklist collection day' at the Maddingley Campus. Booklist Orders placed online by Sunday 10 December will receive free home delivery. (Please note there will be a \$5.95 Handling Fee). Orders placed after this date will attract a postage charge.

Once your child receives their book order, please ensure that you clearly name each item.

Mrs Michelle Graham – Director of Administration

2024 Annual Acknowledgement

BMG families were emailed on 13 November 2023 advising of the 2024 School Fee Schedule and release of the 2024 Business Notice.

All parents/guardians associated to a student of the School are required to complete the Annual Acknowledgement that has now been emailed via Edsmart. The Annual Acknowledgement needs to be signed and submitted by 8th December 2023.

If you are requiring any assistance completing the Annual Acknowledgement, please contact Administration on (03) 5366 4800.

Junior School News

Cross-Campus

Holiday Wishes and

Congratulations on a Successful School Year



As we conclude another academic year, we would like to wish all families a joyous holiday season and a rejuvenating break. May this time be filled with safety, good health, and happiness, and may your holiday plans bring you enjoyment.

Throughout this year, it has been a pleasure witnessing our Junior School students actively engage in a diverse array of activities, both within the classroom and beyond. Academic achievements hold immense importance, and we take pride in providing character-building opportunities that nurture and support each child's unique abilities and interests.

Congratulations to all students on a remarkable school year. Their exemplary representation of themselves, their families and our school community is truly commendable, and they should take great pride in their accomplishments.

For those students embarking on new journeys, we extend our best wishes for success in all your future endeavours. May the memories of your time at Bacchus Marsh Grammar remain cherished ones.

Parents can anticipate receiving the Semester Two reports shortly. We encourage you to read the covering pages for insights into the report format and take the time to discuss your child's achievements and aspirations for the future.

Looking ahead, we eagerly await the return of our Year 1 to 4 students on Thursday, February 1, 2024, and our Prep students on Friday, February 2, 2024, as we commence another school year filled with enriching educational activities and learning opportunities.

I wish you all a delightful holiday season and look forward to a successful and fulfilling year ahead.

Mrs Sally Savic – Head of Junior School Woodlea and Mrs Lisa Foster – Head of Junior School Maddingley

Maddingley

Junior School Art

Throughout the last few weeks, our Junior School students have been working collaboratively painting and decorating a Christmas tree to display at the Bacchus Marsh library as part of a community festive display.

Students have had the opportunity to showcase the many artists and painting styles they have learned about this year. Keep an eye out for our tree and the many other trees decorated by local groups throughout our community.

Ms Allison Weir – Teacher



Woodlea

Prep-2 Fun Run

Congratulations to all students and staff involved in the Woodlea Prep-2 Fun Run held at the Aintree Oval last Thursday 30th of November.

The weather was kind to us and the students, with a ton of beaming smiles and laughs, enjoyed the 1.6km course. Thank you to all the staff involved in the supervision of the students, allocated to a station, or walking/running the course itself; the students were incredibly grateful!

The atmosphere of the event was incredibly positive and that was reflected in the students' efforts!

Students will receive encouragement participation certificates before the end of the year.

Mr Evan Long - Head of Houses/Head of PE Woodlea



Middle School News

As the school year comes to a close, we extend warm wishes to all our Middle School families for a restful summer break. It is with immense gratitude that we acknowledge the hard work and diligence demonstrated by each student throughout the academic year. Your commitment to learning and personal growth has been truly commendable. As the holiday season unfolds, we hope you find time for rest, rejuvenation and joyful moments with loved ones. We eagerly anticipate the return of our dedicated students; keen to continue the journey of education and exploration together in 2024. Have a wonderful festive season.

Mrs Sarah Hunter – Head of Middle School Woodlea and Mr Scott Bayne – Head of Middle School Maddingley

Senior School News

As the year draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the achievements of 2023. Our awards ceremony held this week will allow us the opportunity to recognise the academic achievements and participation of our students in the life of the school. Celebrating all that our students have achieved is always a positive way to draw to a close the school year.

We would like to congratulate all students on their enthusiasm and the effort that they have demonstrated in their approach to the HeadStart classes that have been running for the past two weeks. The feedback on the way the students have taken to their new classes is positive and stands them in good stead for next year.

As students will be receiving their academic reports soon, we encourage all families and students to take the time to read through these, reflect on their successes and look for opportunities for further develop in 2024. We would like all students to set academic goals for themselves, and to strive to meet these goals next year.

We wish all families a restful, joyful and happy holiday period and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Mrs Erin Thornton - Head of Senior School and Mrs Natalie Desira – Deputy Head of Senior School

Student Wellbeing Update

While school holidays bring a welcome break for many, the holidays can be an anxious, upsetting or stressful time for others. Some children and young people miss the routine of school or get bored easily. [Kidshelpline](#) suggests there are signs of stress that you can be looked out for, as well as offering helpful tips to keep children calm and happy over the holidays. To find out more, please visit kidshelpline <https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents/issues/coping-family-holiday-stress>

Some young people may need additional support over the holiday period, particularly if they feel disconnected or are having difficulty managing the change in routine. [Headspace](#), a resource for people aged 12 to 25 years, offers tips for both [young people](#) and [family and friends](#) to help support and promote a healthy headspace. Headspace has produced a resource outlining six steps to help support your young person's mental health and wellbeing over the holidays, as well as information that may help you to identify when your young person might need some extra support and where to go for help.

Christmas time and the holiday period can be a difficult time for those trying to navigate the celebrations and festivities. RUOK? offers a range of resources to assist those who may be struggling at this time. Please click on the link to find out more <https://www.ruok.org.au/holiday>.

We hope that some of these resources support you and your families as you navigate the holiday period. We wish you all the very best for a healthy and safe summer holiday.

Student Wellbeing Team

Music News

Congratulations to guitarist **Aarav Prasad** of 3C for scoring 98% in his Grade One Acoustic Rockscool Examination. Well done Aarav, we look forward to seeing you rock out at a Junior School Assembly in 2024.

Mr Troy Westgarth - Head of Faculty: Music and Performing Arts

Camps Program 2024

Well what a great year 2023 has been for our camps program, with all camps for all year levels back in full swing after some huge setbacks from Covid in the previous years. This was our first year back where all camps were held at full capacity.

A huge thank you to the team that make them all happen; from the administration team, our bus coordinator, our classroom and tutor group teachers and our amazing camps staff, along with our great connections with the YMCA camps across Victoria.



Next year we are launching a new look program with a few camps changing locations and new activities and challenges for all year levels. Stay tuned for more information for 2024 with our junior school enjoying experiences at Lady Northcote, Lake Dewar, Anglesea beach and Camp Sunny stones. The Year 5 students will be heading to Queenscliff Wyuna marine discovery camp. Year 6 students will be heading to Canberra for the first time. Some more epic journeys for the Year 7 and Year 8 students. There will also be new choices for our Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh program where the



Year 9 students will get to choose an adventurous journey for a 5 day expedition.

There are several other camps occurring across numerous curriculum areas including, Environmental Science, Geography and Outdoor Education in the Senior School. As well as opportunities for both domestic travel and international study tours. We will look forward to keeping you informed of these amazing opportunities for our students.

We wish you a safe, adventurous and Happy Christmas and New Year and will look

forward to further education in the outdoors in 2024. Thanks so much to the school and our families for all your support of the great opportunities our students get from the BMG CAMPS PROGRAM!

Ms Rachel McMahon - Director of Camps and Experiences

Reconciliation Action Plan

We are pleased to announce a new whole school Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to the community. Our RAP embodies a commitment to fostering understanding, respect and unity among all members of the school community. This initiative aims to recognise and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that defines our whole school, acknowledging the historical importance of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Through this comprehensive plan, we aspire to embed reconciliation in the ethos of our educational institution; creating an inclusive environment where every student, staff and community member feels valued and heard. Together, we embark on a journey towards a more harmonious and interconnected future, embracing the teachings of reconciliation to guide us in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. For more information, please contact Mrs Sarah Hunter.

Mrs Sarah Hunter – Head of Middle School Woodlea

Conveyance Allowance

Please note that Conveyance Allowance applications have closed for 2023. Payments for Semester Two will be processed in February next year.

All current applications will be rolled over into 2024 so you will not need to submit a new application unless your circumstances have changed (i.e., change in address, change in transport method).

If you would like to apply for the Conveyance Allowance in 2024, please see below:

The Conveyance Allowance is payable to approved families of Bacchus Marsh Grammar students who reside more than 4.8kms from either the Maddingley or Woodlea campuses and who are deemed eligible according to the conditions – see eligibility details below.

An application on behalf of a student may be submitted if the student is:

- a Victorian resident.
- school aged and enrolled (3) three or more days per week at a school; and
- attending a school/campus located outside the Melbourne metropolitan conveyance boundary.

A student who meets the above requirements may be eligible if they:

- attend their nearest or designated neighbourhood government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, or
- attend their nearest appropriate non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, and
- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the campus attended.

Eligibility for students attending a non-government school

The eligibility criteria include the requirement that a student attending a non-government school is attending the nearest appropriate school (that is 4.8km or more from the student's residence).

However, a student attending a non-government school that is not the student's nearest school may apply to the CAU for a determination that the nearest religious non-government school, which has compulsory religious instruction, is not considered 'appropriate' for that student because that student does not belong to or associate with the school's particular religion or engage in religious activities associated with that school's religious doctrines. If this applies to you, please complete a signed supporting letter with your application.

Note: Eligibility is assessed when the school completes your child's application on the Student Conveyance Allowance System (SCAS). If approved, the allowance payable is based on the one-way distance to make the journey to and from school. No private car allowance is payable if the journey to and from school could be made using a public transport service or contract school bus.

Conveyance Allowance application forms are available to download from the school website under Transport & Bus Network in the Community Tab.

Completed applications can be emailed to Nicole Tandy at conveyance@bmg.vic.edu.au or submitted to the Administration Office of either the Maddingley or Woodlea campus.

Mrs Nicole Tandy – Accounts

Bus Update

Student Permission Cards

Students in Prep – Year 6 require a green permission tag on their bags if they are to disembark a bus to be picked up by someone other than their parent/guardian. Students in Year 5 and 6 can disembark the bus on their own, if they have a green permission tag on their bag for the driver to check. Student Afternoon Bus Arrangement and Permission Notices are available on Schoolbox under School Letters. Please return Student Afternoon Bus Arrangement and Permission Notices to bus@bmg.vic.edu.au. 2023 Student Permission tags will be removed from the students' bags early 2024. Any student requiring a tag for 2024 must have an updated Student Afternoon Bus Arrangement and Permission Notice completed for 2024 travel.

Private/Country/PTV Bus operations 2024

All buses will begin operation on Wednesday 31 January 2024

Mrs Leanne Robertson - School Bus Services Administrator

2024 Term Dates

The 2024 Term Dates have been published on the [school's website](#).

Events Calendar

Dates for upcoming events and excursions can be viewed via the events calendar on the [school's website](#).

Uniform Shop

Uniform information and shop business hours for both the Maddingley Campus Onsite Shop and Rushfords in Werribee are listed on the [school's website](#). Please note that uniforms can also be purchased online via <https://www.noone.com.au/>.

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) – The Y Ballarat



The Y Ballarat operates the Out of School Hours Care at Bacchus Marsh Grammar. Upcoming Term Break and Vacation Care information can be found on the YBallarat website listed below.

Enrolments are completed online. For full information please visit the [school's website](#).

Email: chrissie.ashmore@yballarat.org.au Phone: 0490 178 638 W: <https://yballarat.org.au/>

Maddingley:
maddingley.oshc@yballarat.org.au
0438 154 842

Woodlea:
woodlea.oshc@yballarat.org.au
0490 490 362

Regular Contacts

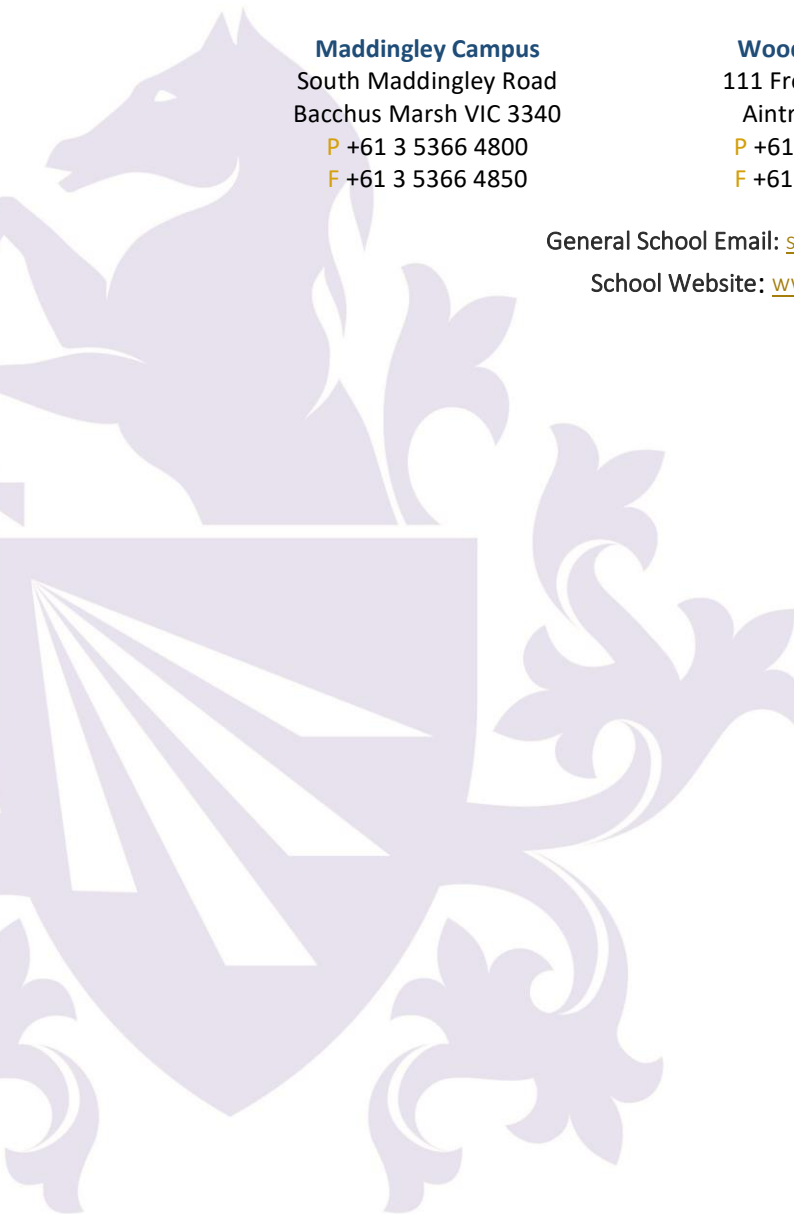
Maddingley Campus
South Maddingley Road
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
P +61 3 5366 4800
F +61 3 5366 4850

Woodlea Campus
111 Frontier Avenue
Aintree VIC 3336
P +61 3 5366 4900
F +61 3 5366 4950

Woodlea Early Learning Centre
111 Frontier Avenue
Aintree VIC 3336
P +61 3 5366 4999
F +61 3 5366 4850

General School Email: school@bmg.vic.edu.au

School Website: www.bmg.vic.edu.au





Moorabool

HOOK IN 2 HOCKEY

Join us for eight weeks of fun!

**Every Wednesday from
7 February - 27 March**

Ages 5-8
4:45pm - 5:30pm

Ages 9-12
5:30pm - 6:15pm



First session free!

Click link below for more info



Register today!
bit.ly/Hin2HDarley23

