

Yass High School



INFORMATION BOOK 2024

2024 School Terms

Term 1 – Tuesday 30th January to Friday 12th April

Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st January: School Development Day (pupil free)

Thursday 1st February: Years 7, 11 and 12 return to school

All new enrolments need to come to school from 9.00am to 11.00am

Friday 2nd February: Years 8, 9 and 10 return to school- All students in attendance.

Term 2 – Monday 29th April to Friday 5th July

Monday 29th April: School Development Day (pupil free)

Tuesday 30th July: Students return to school

Term 3 – Monday 22nd July to Friday 27th September

Monday 22nd July: School Development Day (pupil free)

Tuesday 23rd July: Students return to school

Term 4 - Monday 14th October to Friday 20th December

Thursday 19th December: School Development Day (pupil free)

Lesson Times

Time	Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri	Time	Wed
9.00am - 9.10am	Roll Call	9.00am - 10.00am	Period 1
9.10am - 10.10am	Period 1	10.00am - 11.00am	Period 2
10.15am -11.15am	Period 2	11.00am - 11.40am	Break 1
11.15am - 11.55am	Break 1	11.40am - 12.40pm	Period 3
11.55am - 12.55pm	Period 3	12.40pm - 1.40pm	Period 4
1.00pm - 2.00pm	Period 4	1.40pm - 2.00pm	Break 2
2.00pm - 2.20pm	Break 2	2.05pm - 3.20pm	Sport
2.20pm - 3.20pm	Period 5		



Welcome

Welcome to Yass High School. We are an inclusive, comprehensive and growing high school in a rural community close to the national capital. We have a proud record of providing an extensive range of academic, cultural, creative and performing arts, sporting, agricultural, and technological opportunities for local students for over 50 years.

Highly qualified and passionate teachers maintain professional currency with best practice teaching strategies and resources to deliver a quality education to our students. Students benefit from a Trade Skills Training Centre, a modern Science/STEM facility, open-plan learning environments and strong ties with the community. A new multi-purpose hall was completed in 2022 to provide a facility that will meet our Sporting and Entertainment course needs and provide a venue that will host events to connect the whole Yass community.

The school values are Respect, Responsibility, Honesty. These values have been agreed upon by students, parents and staff and form the basis for student wellbeing, backed by strong welfare and support structures and a culture of caring. Our Learning Support Team ensures individual students receive any required learning adjustments necessary to achieve success.

Yass High School is a member of two learning communities ensuring staff are well equipped for teaching and learning across the Kindergarten to Year 12 continuum. The Binit Binit Learning Community consists of 6 partner primary schools and is committed to providing the best possible education for all students with a focus on middle school and gifted and talented programs, creative and performing arts opportunities and Aboriginal education. The Southern Tablelands Community of Schools focuses on HSC excellence, sharing resources, and providing quality professional learning for staff.

Our school is supported by a strong P&C team which operates the uniform shop. Students demonstrate their pride in their school by wearing the school uniform appropriately. We promote a culture of high expectations of behaviour, learning and contribution to community.

We welcome you to Yass High School and look forward to developing our learning partnership with you as your child progresses through the secondary years of education.

Linda Langton
Principal

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Your key contacts at Yass High School

Principal

Deputy Principal – Years 7, 9, 11

Deputy Principal – Years 8, 10, 12

Business Manager

Administration Manager

Faculty Head Teachers

English

Mathematics

Science/Agriculture

HSIE/Language (LOTE)/Library/Careers

CAPA - Visual Arts/Music/Drama

TAS - Industrial Arts/VET/Food Technology/Textiles

PDHPE

Multi-categorical Classes/ Learning Support

Year Advisers

Year 12

Year 11

Year 10

Year 9

Year 8

Year 7

Curriculum Co-ordinators

Stage 6 (Year 11 & 12)

Stage 5 (Year 9 & 10)

Stage 4 (Year 7 & 8)

VET Co-ordinator

Year 6 Transition Co-ordinator

Sport

School Sport

Representative Sport

Welfare

Deputy Principal – Years 7, 9, 11

Deputy Principal – Years 8, 10, 12

Welfare Coordinator

Careers Adviser

School Counsellor

Student Support Officer

Learning and Support

Financial

Enrolment/Transfer

Student Representative Council

Anti-Racism/Wellbeing

Aboriginal Programs

Lost Property

Clothing Pool

Technical Support

Concerns about

Staff

Students

Subjects

Linda Langton

Andrew Facer

Ruth Riach

Angela Parker

Merissa Watchorn

Scott Grose

John Duncan

Tracy Randall

Brendan Roberts

Jacqueline Hansson

Joanne Southwell

James Harding

Melanie Meadley

Scott Anderson

Deanne Young

Jody Gaffney

Marnie Pack

Lenora Yasin

Gina Carnley

Deanne Young

Deanne Young

Andrew Facer/Ruth Riach

Joanne Southwell

Teresa Baines

James Harding

Tracey Bills

Andrew Facer

Ruth Riach

Teresa Baines

Fiona Wykes

Sorubi Thavaratam/

Steph Herrmann/Kristy Barber

Adele Lambie

Melanie Meadley

Angela Parker

Linda Langton

Tracey Bills

Tracey Bills

Kate Vale

Duplicating Room Staff

P&C Association

John Duncan

Principal

Deputy Principal/s

Head Teacher

Daily Organisation

Punctuality and preparedness

- Our school's complex organisation is aimed at providing students with the best educational experiences available and is dependent on everyone being on time and fully prepared for every day and every lesson so that learning time is not wasted. Punctuality and preparedness are themselves important and essential life skills.

Day Structure

- Roll call is held every morning (9.00-9.10am) except Wednesday.
- A normal school day has 5 one hour periods.
- Year 7-10 school sport occurs for 80min each Wednesday afternoon.
- Senior sport occurs for 60min each Thursday afternoon.

Attendance

- Good attendance is essential for success at school. Research links poor attendance with poor academic and social outcomes. Missing school makes it harder to keep in touch and fully benefit from belonging to your school community. Please contact the school if you know your child will be away.
- Attendance is marked online each lesson.
- All parents will be contacted via SMS if their child is absent at the beginning of the day if they supply a mobile phone number.

Legal Attendance Requirements

- Students are to be at school every day it is open unless illness or serious, unavoidable events prevent their attendance.
- Students can only miss school to attend work if it is an organised work placement.
- A minimum 85% attendance rate in each year of study is essential for the award of a Record of School Achievement or a Higher School Certificate.
- A written or verbal explanation from parents is required for all absences including missing a lesson, a part or whole of a day.

Home School Liaison Officer

- Where there are ongoing or prolonged unexplained absences and the student is under 17 years of age, the school will refer the student to the Learning and Engagement Officer at Queanbeyan Office. The student may then be referred to the Home School Liaison Officer who will contact the parents/carers.
- A return to school program may then be implemented in consultation with the school.

Absences

- Explanatory notes are to be entered into compass before the absence occurs or within 7 days.
- For part absences, leave or appointments - a note should be entered into Compass before school and the student will then be allowed to leave class and proceed to the front office to sign out where a leave pass will be issued.
- Students with an assessable task due on that day must contact the school (see the Assessment Policy for each year).

Supervision

- Supervision is provided from 8.35am to 4.00pm
- Students travelling on buses are expected to remain at school on arrival and until departure of their bus at the end of the school day.

How we communicate with parents and students

Open and timely communication between the school, home and the community is our ideal at Yass High School. All school community members are urged to use appropriate communication channels to keep each other informed of matters related to students and learning. *Lack of time* is often an issue in keeping communication channels open on a busy school day so patience is sometimes necessary. The other inhibiting factor to good communication is *rumour and gossip*: if what you hear sounds odd please contact the school for clarification. There may be instances where you are unhappy with an aspect of the school management. In keeping with the spirit of open communication, we ask you to contact the school for clarification or discussion rather than airing concerns on social media.

Contacting the school

- All contact with the school should be through the Front Office or via Compass
- Communication is enhanced by contacting the relevant person. A list of 'key contacts' is provided on page 6 of this book.
- The Deputy Principals assist the Principal in leading and managing the school. The Principal and Deputy Principals form the senior executive in the school. The Deputy Principal is responsible for the day-to-day organisation of the school and for the welfare of all students and staff. The Deputy Principals, along with the Principal, are responsible for overseeing the continuous improvement in teaching and learning across the school.
- The Principal is responsible for all areas of educational leadership. This includes the education and welfare of all students, all educational programs, learning outcomes, the management of staff and staff welfare development, financial management of the school, the management of the school property and developing partnerships between the school and the school community.
- Head Teachers are an integral part of the school leadership team and their role is to support the Principal and Deputy Principals in leading and managing the school. They are accountable to the Principal for the provision of leadership in their specific curriculum area including educational programs, learning outcomes, student welfare, staff welfare, development and management, school and community partnerships and other areas as delegated by the Principal. Some Head Teachers have other specific responsibilities related to school administration and student welfare. For progress reports please contact the relevant Year Adviser.
- The Year Adviser, who works closely with the school's welfare team and classroom teachers, is often the first person a parent should approach to discuss any problems or issues about a child. They provide relevant information to staff at meetings.
- For serious welfare concerns, please make an appointment to see the School Counsellor. The School Counsellor assists teachers by strengthening the school's student welfare provisions and provides counselling and psychological assessment of students with specific needs. Their work with teachers in the classroom is designed to improve student learning outcomes. Matters discussed with the counsellor are confidential between the student and the counsellor.

Contacting Students

- Messages will be conveyed if it is of an urgent or serious nature. Please restrict requests made of the office staff. Please DO NOT message students on mobile phones.

Channels of Communication

- We have a very informative website www.yass-h.school.nsw.edu.au, use the QR for quick access to the school website and facebook account <https://www.facebook.com/YassHighSchool/>
- A regular bulletin (InTouch) containing news of student achievement and the forthcoming calendar is sent out on Compass. A paper copy can be requested by contacting the school office.
- It is recommended that students purchase a diary to record homework and assist them in organising their day.
- Parents may request a profile of their child's work (progress report) at any time through the relevant Year Adviser.
- Warnings about incomplete assignments and students at risk are provided in writing by email.



Parent Portal

- The [Parent Portal](#) gives access to student information and services, including parent/teacher interviews and upcoming events. The front office staff can help with access to the parent portal.
- The URL for continued access to the portal is: <https://schools.compass.education/>
- Should you experience difficulties please do not hesitate to contact the school for assistance or access online help on the school website at <http://www.yass-h.schools.nsw.edu.au>
- The Compass App can be downloaded via the link below or from the App store or google play.

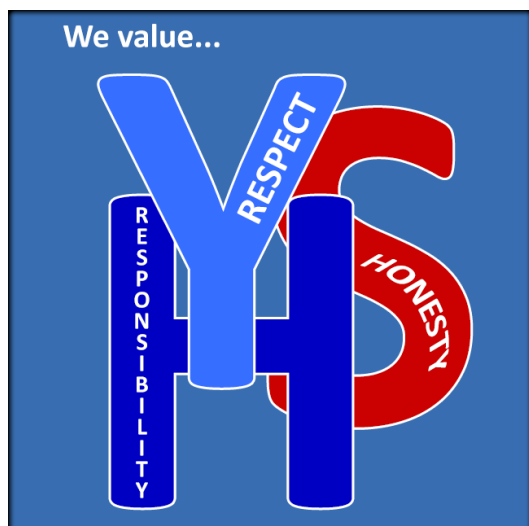


Parent Teacher Interviews

- Parent/Teacher evenings are held twice a year to allow discussion on your child's progress.
- There is an on-line booking system for interviews via Compass.



Student Wellbeing



PBL- Positive Behaviour for Learning

At Yass High School our words and actions are Respectful, Responsible and Honest. These are our PBL values and expectations, to develop positive social and emotional skills that once embedded improve learning.

Some of these expectations are:

Respect

- Be Kind to others
- Listen to understand
- Follow staff instructions
- Use polite and caring language
- Be aware of personal space
- Wear uniform

Responsibility

- Take care of self and others
- Take care of the environment
- Report any problems to staff
- Right place, right time
- Be on time

Honesty

- Do your best
- Follow the school expectations for behaviour
- Move directly to class at the end of the break
- Return items to the owner
- Admit when you get it wrong
- Do the right thing without being asked

Welfare Officers

- The school has 3 school Counsellors covering the school week.
- The Welfare Coordinator liaises with external agencies to support students and their families.
- Each year group has a Year Adviser
- Each year group has a designated Deputy Principal
- An Anti-Racism Contact Officer also assists in the welfare process
- A Student Support Officer supports students to enhance their resilience and safety.

Year Advisers

- The Transition Co-ordinator and Year 7 Adviser at Yass High School organise the transition from primary school. The Year Adviser works with the same year group from Year 7 through to Year 12.
- Year Advisers:
 - ♦ establish and maintain an efficient and caring network, rapport and environment
 - ♦ facilitate social and emotional learning within their year group
 - ♦ establish communications with staff and parents
 - ♦ monitor specific needs of students
 - ♦ are available for student/teacher/parent interviews and support to complete student profile information
 - ♦ compile “Student Profile Reports” when requested
 - ♦ develop management and leadership skills within the group



Scott Anderson Year 12



Dee Young Year 11



Jody Gaffney Year 10



Marnie Pack Year 9



Lenora Yasin Year 8



Gina Carnley Year 7

Student Leadership

- Students at Yass High School are given many opportunities to develop their leadership skills. The Student Representative Council (SRC) is the principle leadership body for students.
- The role of the SRC is to represent the voice of the students. The student representatives organise school events, fundraise for elected charities and generally help with supporting the school values both within the school and community.
- The School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects are active members of the SRC, and also participate in many community activities that promote leadership and pride in Yass High School.

First Aid

- The clinic is located in the Administration area adjacent to the Front Office.
- All students needing medical attention should report to the clinic with a note from their classroom teacher.
- The clinic is only for immediate first aid or sudden illness that occurs at school.
- Parents will be contacted upon student request or if the student needs more than one lesson in the clinic.
- In the event of an emergency, parents/carers will be contacted as soon as possible. However, if necessary, the child will be transported straight to hospital.



Medicines

- Prescription medicines listed under the Poisons Act such as amphetamines for ADHD must be lodged with the Front Office staff and are stored in a locked cabinet.
- The doctors prescribed instruction of dosage of medication must also be lodged at the office.

Non-Prescribed Medication

- The school is prohibited from providing paracetamol or other medicines without parental permission.
- Parents/Carers or emergency contact person will be contacted on a student needs basis. Parents/carers will either collect their student from school or give permission for medications, to be given at that time.

Insurance

- There is no general insurance for accidents at school.



Uniform

- The NSW Department of Education Behaviour Code for students states that students are expected to comply with the school's uniform policy.
- The uniform code is developed by a committee representative of all stake-holders in line with Departmental Policy. In 2018 a review of the uniform was conducted and a new uniform has been in place since 2019.
- Students are expected to abide by the policy during school hours, while travelling to and from school and when engaged in school activities outside the school.
- In certain practical or specialised areas, general safety and WHS rules must be applied to clothing and footwear and followed at all times. **Covered leather shoes are required in such areas as science labs, kitchens, and when working in woodwork and metalwork rooms.** Breaches of WHS footwear requirement will result in the student being prevented from participating in the practical aspects of the lesson and alternate work will be provided
- Our school believes the following are the benefits derived from the wearing of school uniform:
 - ♦ Forms a sense of community, improves school tone and atmosphere and helps develop a sense of pride in the school.
 - ♦ Assists with student identification and safety.
 - ♦ Stops the anxiety associated with “what do I wear” each day as it reduces competition amongst students and removes pressure on families to provide “fashionable” items for daily wear.
 - ♦ Promotes equality among students.
 - ♦ Maintains the high public and community regard for the school and its students.
 - ♦ Prepares students for expectations in general dress and uniform for work and post school life.
- On sports day (Wednesday) students may wear approved school sport uniform and school representative tops. On other days students' are expected to change into the sport uniform for PE lessons, and back into school uniform at the end of this lesson.
- Full uniform, including correct footwear, is a condition of participation in representative activities and excursions.
- If for any reason uniform cannot be worn, a note is required to be given to the roll call teacher.
- A clothing pool operates and assistance can be provided in cases of hardship.

Note: Jeans, tights, leggings or active wear are NOT acceptable uniform items

Covered leather shoes

Entry to laboratories, kitchens and workshops is conditional on covered leather shoes being worn.

Footwear



Uniform Shop

The P&C Association runs the uniform shop and aims to assist our school in two ways.

- Firstly to ensure our children are well dressed, in quality uniform, at a reasonable cost to our YHS families.
- The second is to fundraise to provide financial assistance for programs and resources for the school.

Your support of the Uniform Shop assists us in these aims, and wearing correct uniform helps our students develop a feeling of community, and a sense of pride in their school.

PRICE LIST

Polo shirts	\$30.00	Sports shirts	\$30.00
Button shirts	\$30.00	Boys microfibre shorts	\$25.00
Cargo shorts	\$30.00	Boys pants	\$40.00
Tracksuit pants	\$35.00	Girls microfibre shorts	\$25.00
Sports skort	\$30.00	Pleated skirts	\$35.00
Girls tailored pants	\$40.00	Hoodie jumper	\$40.00
V-neck pullover	\$40.00		

How to order

The Yass High School Uniform Shop takes orders online at www.school24.net.au (school registration ID is 2516 7963)

yhsuniformshop@gmail.com



Welfare and Discipline

It is expected that students display our school values whether they are in the classroom, on excursion or in the community.

We believe

- ♦ students have the right to be safe and happy at school
 - ♦ a teacher must be able to teach at all times
 - ♦ no student has the right to stop others from learning
 - ♦ students are responsible for their own actions and must accept the consequences that follow from those actions.
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- Poor behaviour choices are addressed in the first instance with classroom teacher support. Students who continue to not demonstrate school values are supported through the Student Management System. This may include being temporarily removed from class and/or being placed on a yellow, orange and red level. If student behaviour does not improve, a suspension may be imposed.
 - Students who are struggling with their academic or social behaviour are identified and supported.
 - The Learning and Support team works to ensure that all students follow an appropriate pattern of study, that learning needs of students are accommodated and that learning experiences and tasks are modified in line with identified needs.
 - Our Welfare Network includes:
 - ♦ Welfare Coordinator - supervises Year Advisers; liaises with Head Teacher and Learning and Support Teacher;
 - ♦ Head Teacher Support - manages students in MC (multi-categorical) classes;
 - ♦ School Counsellor supports students with school and personal issues;
 - ♦ Learning and Support Teacher - supports students with a range of learning needs by creating Individual Learning Plans for students and working with teachers to modify/adjust learning.
 - ♦ Year Advisers - maintain regular contact with their year group to monitor and manage student wellbeing.
 - ♦ Student Support Officer – Supports students to develop their resilience and safety.
 - Bullying is not tolerated at Yass High School. Students who do not respect this are told that their behaviour is unacceptable and hurtful and has to stop. If it continues, parents are informed and students must work through a series of lessons to learn appropriate ways to treat others. A whole school understanding of what bullying means, its consequences and effects and the importance of speaking up is developed through targeted workshops and lessons. Please see policy on our website.
 - Teachers trained in anti-discrimination and anti-racism protocols oversee the development of positive behaviour in these areas.
 - Students, parents and staff are encouraged to raise issues of concern regarding any aspect of the school with a teacher or the principal.
 - Yass High School has developed a Code of Communication based on the NSW Department of Education's School Community Charter, supported by our strong P&C group, which describes expectations for mutually respectful communication between the school and the community.
 - The policies and procedures of the NSW Department of Education are followed and implemented at all times.

Administration

Voluntary Contributions and Course Fees

- Our school offers a diverse and relevant curriculum to all students. Parents are requested to pay a voluntary contribution of \$50 (Years 7-10), \$70 (Year 11 & 12) each year to purchase resources which enhance learning for all students.
- Although contributions are voluntary in accordance with departmental policy, it is vital that parents support the school through payment of this money as it provides a major part of the budget figure allocated to resourcing the educational program of our school.
- In addition to this contribution, costs for materials/activities exist in some courses. These courses usually have consumables or use equipment which are expensive to maintain and replace.
- Electives fees **must** be paid. Students who have not arranged payment by the end of week 3 each semester or negotiated a payment plan with the Administration Manager, will be offered a no-cost elective alternate. These payments for selected subjects are necessary as they cover goods and materials used by students.

Musical Instrument Hire

- A fee applies for all students who hire a Yass High School instrument.
- All Band members are to pay a band fee to cover the cost of music, etc.

Student Assistance

- Government funded assistance is available on application through the office. Funds received enable us to provide some support for fees relief or uniform.

Private Vehicle Conveyance Subsidy

- Private Vehicle Conveyance (PVC) subsidy is available for eligible school students, who are residents of NSW, where there is no public transport for all or part of the journey and who reside more than 1.6 kms walking distance to the nearest bus pick-up point. PVC is paid on a daily basis for the single distance journey between home and school bus pick up point. PVC may also be available on medical or safety grounds (where the journey between home and the pick-up point is unsafe).
- Application forms are available online via the Dept of Transport. A new form is required by the Dept of Transport if your child is new at Yass High School.

Money/Permission Notes

- The office is staffed from 8.30am.
- In 2022 Yass High School administration moved to become paperless, families are required to download the compass app to pay monies and communicate with the school.
- Fees and events should be paid online via the Compass portal or Compass app.
- Payments that cannot be made through Compass can be paid to the Front Office with either cash or EFTPOS.

Valuables at School

- Personal valuables may be lodged with the Front Office for safe keeping.
- No responsibility is taken if valuable items are lost, damaged or stolen at school.

Mobile Phones at School

- While mobile phones and other personal electronic devices (Smart watches, Airpods, headphones, MP3 players etc) may be brought to school, they must remain 'Yondered' during the school day unless teachers give permission for them to be used as a learning tool.
- If devices are audible, visible or used in class without teacher permission the student will be directed to take them to the Front Office to be collected by a parent.
- Devices must not be used to bully, harass or distract others from learning.
- Repeated misuse of devices may lead to the student being suspended from school.



Energy and Soft drinks

- Students are not permitted to bring soft drinks or 'energy' drinks of any sort to school. Drinks such as Red Bull, V, Mother, etc are banned from YHS for health and wellbeing reasons.
- These items are also banned when students are representing the school during off-site activities such as excursions, sporting events and camps.
- If students are found with these drinks they will be confiscated. Full cans will be returned at the end of the day.
- We ask that students bring water to drink as this is most beneficial to quench thirst.

Parents & Citizen Association

- Our P&C meets at 6.00pm at the school on the first Thursday of each month. This is an ideal way of establishing communications with the staff and other parents. New parent and community members are always welcome.

Lost Property

- Lost property is located in the duplicating room.
- Clothing and bags should be labelled with student's name.

School Photos

- School photograph day is during Term 1.
- These photos are used by the school for identification purposes and the supply of Library Cards.
- Full school uniform is required for this day.

Laptops - Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

- At Yass High School students have the opportunity to bring their own technology device, connect to the Department of Education (DoE) wireless network to download and use Microsoft and Adobe Software. It is important to check the specifications of the kind of devices that can participate in the BYOD program.
- Refer to the BYOD website at [Home YHS BYOD \(weebly.com\)](http://Home.YHS.BYOD.weebly.com) - follow the steps to connect.

Use of the Internet

- The aims of using electronic media include:
 - ♦ enhancing students' learning opportunities and outcomes
 - ♦ enhancing staff professional development through better links with professional bodies
 - ♦ assisting staff and students to develop better information and communication skills
 - ♦ enhancing the existing information facilities in classrooms, the school library and faculties.
- No personal information will be provided to outside users through the Internet.
- The Internet is not to be used by students to distribute material which is harmful to individuals or the school as a whole.

Privacy Act

- Our employer, the NSW Department of Education, has advised schools that under the Privacy Act we are required to obtain parent/carer permission before photographs of students may be published. Student images will also be seen when they are participating in video conferences.
- This consent is found on the Student Enrolment application for all new enrolments; a letter seeking consent is sent home for others.
- Please contact the school if you wish to change this consent.

Use of vehicles at school

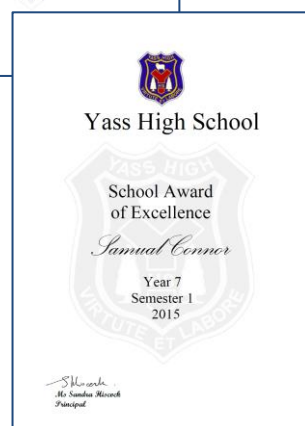
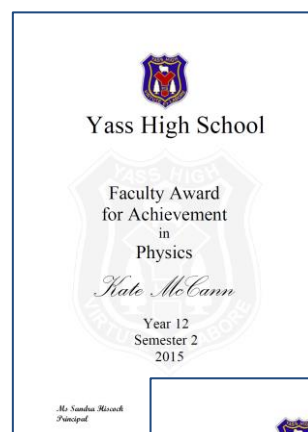
- Year 12 students may opt in to the flexible attendance system if they have non-timetabled periods. A permission note will be issued at the start of Year 12 for parents to sign. If students are using the flexible attendance system, they may arrive at school after 9.00am and leave before 3.20pm when they **do not** have timetabled classes at the start or end of the day. Students who do not have a scheduled class period 5 may sign out at 2nd break.
- Non-timetabled periods during the day will be supervised **study periods** at school. Students **MAY NOT** leave school before the conclusion of their last timetabled lesson of the day.
- Students **may not** drive themselves or others on school excursions or to sporting events.
- Students **are not** permitted to park at YHS. They should park at Victoria park.

Student Recognition

End of Semester Awards

Faculty Award

- There are four categories of Faculty Awards:
 - 1st in class Award which is determined by assessment results and rankings;
 - Effort Award for diligent and conscientious application throughout the semester, resulting in measured improvement;
 - Encouragement Award for consistently displaying positive learning behaviours; and
 - Achievement Award for subjects where a student achieves at an exemplary standard.
- These awards are nominated by classroom teachers in recognition of an individual student's effort or achievement.
- Parents are encouraged to attend Celebration Assemblies at the end of each semester where awards are presented.



School Award

- A School Award recognises outstanding effort and commitment to learning and is given to students who have received a Faculty Award in the majority of their courses.
- These awards are presented at Celebration Assemblies at the end of each semester.

Principal's Award of Excellence

- A Principal's Award acknowledges excellence in application and achievement.
- This award is given to students who receive a Faculty Award in the majority of their courses.
- These awards are presented at Celebration Assemblies at the end of each semester.

End of Year Awards

There are two categories of Principals Awards:

Principal's Award for Exceptional Effort and Principal's Award for Academic Achievement

A Principal's Award acknowledges excellence in application and achievement.

- Students need to have achieved a Principal Award of Excellence in both semesters. The type of faculty awards achieved for the semester Principal's Award of Excellence determines whether students receive a Principal's Award for Exceptional Effort or a Principal's Award for Academic Achievement
- These awards are presented at the end of year Presentation Evening.

Curriculum and Assessment

Yass High School delivers a wide range of curriculum within the current guidelines of the NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA).

Curriculum requirements

- Each student must follow minimum requirements of study set out down by NESA. The school pattern reflects these requirements. Each enrolling student is given information about the curriculum for their year.
- A serious attempt at coursework, assessment tasks and exams is necessary for students to be deemed to have completed any course.
- Provision is made for students with extended illnesses. A medical certificate is required in these cases.
- Sport participation is mandatory for all years except Year 12.

Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8)

- Core subjects for Years 7-8 include English, Mathematics, Science, Australian History and Australian Geography.
- The following subjects are being offered as part of Technology Mandatory - Agricultural, Digital, Metal, Timber, Textile and Food Technology.
- Students must also complete mandatory NESA hours in PDHPE, Music, Art and Language-Indonesian.

Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10)

- Core subjects for Years 9 and 10 include English, Mathematics, Science, Australian History and Australian Geography, and PDHPE.
- The following subjects are being offered and will be determined by student choices:
Agricultural Technology, Commerce, Drama, Food Technology, Industrial Technology Metal, Industrial Technology Timber, iSTEM, Music, Personal Development and Social Development – Community Studies, Photographic and Digital Media, Physical Activity and Sport Studies, Textiles Technology, Visual Arts and Visual Design.
- NESA requires at least one 200 hour elective. Yass High School offers two elective 200 hour courses.

Stage 6 (Years 11 and 12)

- In Years 11 and 12 the only compulsory subject is English
- The following subjects are available:
English Advanced, English Extension, English Standard, English Studies (Non ATAR), Ancient History, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Legal Studies, Mathematics, Mathematics Extension, Mathematics Standard 2 Pathway, Modern History, Music 1, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Physics, Textiles and Design, Visual Arts, Hospitality (VET), Metal and Engineering (VET), Primary Industries (VET), Mathematics Standard 1 Pathway, Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation Studies, Entertainment (VET), Food Technology, Community and Family studies, Geography, Mathematics Advanced, Construction (VET), Visual Design, Photography, Video and Digital Imaging and Software Engineering
- Students study the equivalent of at least 12 units (six 2-unit subjects) in Year 11 and at least 10 units (five 2-unit subjects) in Year 12.

Assessments and Reports

All Years are issued an assessment booklet at the beginning of each year. These can also be found [here](#) on the school website

Individual assessment tasks can be found on the compass calendar on the due date.

Semester reports are issued at the end of each semester and are available via the compass portal. If a printed report is required please contact the office during school hours.

All dates are subject to change if unforeseen circumstances arise.

Assessment Policies

- Assessments are based on a combination of class and whole course tasks with tests where relevant.
- Assessment policies for all years are published on the school's website.
- Upcoming assessment tasks including a copy of the task can be found on the compass calendar.
- In Years 10, 11 & 12 assessment schedules are issued in line with the NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) requirements. It is essential that students and parents are familiar with these schedules.

Learning Hub Classes

- Yass High School has supported learning classes providing specialised teaching practices to accommodate the requirements of students with additional learning needs.
- Yass High School is an inclusive setting. Students who attend the Learning Hub (LH) study a variety of courses, including electives, in both LH and mainstream environments.
- Students in LH classes are able to participate in the full range of extra curricular activities.



Programs

Careers program

Yass High School has a full-time Careers Adviser who provides a range of services for students to assist them in planning their Career and Pathways including:

- Year 10 Careers Education
- Careers advice: available to meet with both parents and students
- Subject choice interviews, progress interviews, career planning interviews
- Careers Expos/Market/Open days/Taster days
- Work experience opportunities for students in consultation with parents/carers and host employers
- Guest speakers to promote a variety of careers
- Career aspiration and development, Excursions such as: Canberra Careers Expo, CIT Try a Trade, TAFE Taster Day, Uni of Wollongong Discovery Day, Uni of Canberra
- Resume preparation, selection criteria and interview preparation
- Assistance with applications for jobs, scholarships, early entry, accommodation, UAC, TAFE, CIT and private providers
- SBAT- School Based Traineeships & Apprenticeships – school contact application to establish
- Alternative programs such as: TAFE programs and White card-GIT training
- Careers resources in the school library
- Student Pathways Survey
- Student Destination Survey
- Parent/student information evenings
- Transition team meetings
- Wellbeing team meetings
- EVET – applications Coordinator
- TVET – Coordinator

Extension opportunities

A range of opportunities is offered to develop gifted and talented students, including:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ♦ State and National Mathematics, Computing, Science, Geography, HSIE and English competitions | ♦ Visiting speakers |
| ♦ Public Speaking and Debating | ♦ Independent programs of study |
| ♦ Band and Choir | ♦ Internet: advanced access |
| ♦ Elite Sports Program | ♦ Scholarships: TransGrid, Defence Force, Yass District Education Foundation |
| ♦ Environmental projects | ♦ UC Outreach Program |
| ♦ Students' Representative Council | ♦ Learning Labs with University of Wollongong |
| ♦ Rotary Exchange and RYPEN | ♦ Science and Engineering Challenge |
| | ♦ Maths Olympiad |

Music program

Bands

- Yass High School offers a comprehensive band program beginning with the Link Band for primary students.
- The Concert Band is made up of students from Years 7 to 12 and play for a variety of occasions including special assemblies, Presentation Evening, and Anzac Day commemorations.
- Concert Band rehearsals occur weekly.

Rural Fire Service volunteer training

- This program allows students aged 15 and over who have a rural background to undertake practical and theoretical training that enables them to volunteer with the Rural Fire Service (RFS).
- At the end of the 10 week program students receive a certificate that gives them credit towards becoming a fully trained RFS volunteer.
- RFS volunteers and officials come into the school 1 day a week to conduct the training during sport time. Uniforms are provided for the students to wear during the training.



School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT)

School based apprenticeships, and traineeships combine practical work with structured learning and lead to a nationally recognised qualification. Apprenticeships and Traineeships are available in over 500 occupations in an increasing range of industries. SBATS are started while still at school and form part of a student's Higher School Certificate (HSC).

A School Based Apprenticeship/Traineeship (SBAT) involves the employment of a young person who is undertaking a traineeship part-time while still attending school and enrolled in a course that is included in their pattern of study for the HSC qualification.

For more information about availability and establishment of all SBATs please see the careers advisor.

Special Religious Education (SRE)

Year 7-9 students will have one SRE lesson each fortnight delivered by the Combined Churches of Yass. Parents will be asked to complete a permission for their child to attend/withdraw from the program. Students not attending will be supervised to read or complete class and assignment work. This permission can be changed at any time via written request.

Sport Program

- Yass High School offers a wide and varied range of sports for students to enjoy and excel at, including but not limited to:

Touch Football	Cross Country	Golf	Skate Park
Football (Soccer)	Netball	Cricket	Lawn Bowls
Rugby League	Basketball	Weights	Fire Cadets
Swimming	Gymnastics	Squash	Table Tennis
Athletics	Tennis	Yoga	

- Students who walk to sport outside of the school need to have a permission note from parents indicating they are allowed to walk to the various sporting venues. All groups are supervised.
- Notes giving permission for the year will be sent out via Compass.
- Students will return to the school at the end of sport, by bus or on foot.
- Parents/Carers can write notes allowing their child to leave directly from an outside venue to their home.



Vocational Educational Training (VET)

- VET (Framework courses) are vocationally oriented courses designed to give students skills in a range of industries.
- Yass High School has the capacity to offer six framework courses authorised by the NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA).

These are:

- ♦ Primary Industries
 - ♦ Construction
 - ♦ Entertainment Industries
 - ♦ Info & Digital Media Technology
 - ♦ Food and Beverage Hospitality
 - ♦ Kitchen operations
 - ♦ Metal and Engineering
 - ♦ Skill for work
- In these courses students work to develop the competencies, skills and knowledge described in each unit. To be assessed as competent, a student must demonstrate to a qualified assessor that they can effectively carry out the various tasks and combinations of tasks listed to the standard required in the appropriate industry. There is no mark awarded in competency-based assessment. Students are assessed as either 'competent' or 'not yet competent'.
 - Students achieve Australian Qualification Frameworks (AQF) at the end of their two years of study.
 - As part of their course, students are required to complete mandatory work placements of 35 hours in both Year 11 and 12, either in a block during school time, or through appropriate and recognised, part time employment.
 - Students wishing to obtain an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) may choose to sit a written HSC examination in addition to obtaining their AQF qualification



Clubs

Art Club

Junior students who are keen on doing extra art activities meet in the Art room at lunch time once a week. This provides students with an opportunity to extend their skills and interests beyond the classroom curriculum.

AV (Audio-Visual) Club

The school has an AV Club which meets during lunch time. It is free to join and open to all students who have an interest in working with audio-visual equipment, from sound mixing to video creation.

AV Club provides a safe and enjoyable environment for students to gather and share their thoughts, opinions and passion for the media and entertainment industries.

The AV Club is responsible for equipping students with the practical skills necessary to help run school events, such as assemblies, along with problem solving skills that can be applied in every day life.

Chess Club

The Chess Club meet once a week at lunch time for social games and for selection to the Yass High School representative Chess Team. The top four players are invited to participate in the NSW Junior Chess League Country Schools Teams Competition, commencing in March each year.

Yass High is part of the State wide competition which has been running for nineteen years and has enjoyed the patronage of over 300 secondary schools in regional NSW.

The competition is run in a knock-out format with initial matches being scheduled between closest entered schools in the region to minimise travel. As teams progress through the competition, lengthy travel can be avoided by arranging to play over the internet.

Minecraft Club

Minecraft club occurs every week on a Wednesday lunch time. Minecraft is a "sandbox" game where players explore, craft and build their own world which is based on real-world chemistry and engineering. Minecraft promotes creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving in an immersive digital environment

Show Team

The show team is a program that has been running at Yass High School since 1988 and involves students preparing cattle, sheep for showing at local and royal shows. The school prepares animals from its own commercial herd as well as donated steers and stud stock from local and other breeders. The students learn many valuable personal skills in the team including interpersonal skills, public speaking, personal presentation, manual handling skills amongst many others.

Vocal Ensemble

Vocal Ensemble offers opportunities for students to practise and perform together at school and Regional events, and state Rehearsals are during lunch and all students are welcome.

Other lunchtime clubs activities

Students can choose to participate in a range of activities at lunch time, run by training groups such as Social Justice, Drama Club and English Club. The library is open and students may read, play board games, complete classwork or access games if computers are available.

Facilities

Our Learning Environment

The school includes a variety of learning spaces, from traditional class room to more open plan Integrated Learning Spaces, a STEM building and a new Hall. The learning spaces offer flexibility which encourages self-directed learning and allows teachers to regularly and effectively practise innovative teaching techniques. An increase in collaborative learning areas supports problem, project and inquiry-based learning. There are also a range of spaces that support independent and social learning which encourage interaction, promote inclusivity and support 'community of learners' who are focused on achievement.

Community Trade Skills Centre

Yass High School has a Community Trade Skills Centre with industry-standard modern facilities and an award winning innovative design. This is a facility which benefits our students and the whole community.

Library and Information Resource Centre

- The Library is open between 8.30am and 3:20pm Monday to Friday.
- All students have access to the library, which provides opportunities for classes, small groups, or individuals to research, study, or to simply read for pleasure. There is also a selection of more traditional games such as Monopoly, Chess, Jenga and Uno for students to enjoy.
- Outside of class time, the library's resources and computers can be utilised before school and during lunch.
- Students can access the library catalogue online via the student portal, the school website or the library website (www.yasshslibrary.weebly.com).
- The school also offers supervised study outside school hours to senior students, particularly during their HSC year. Times will depend on student and teacher availability.

Farm

- The school has approximately 3ha of farm to be used as a teaching resource for Year 7-12 Agriculture and Years 11-12 Primary Industries (VET). Students carry out the majority of the farm work as part of their studies in agriculture so that the practical and theoretical aspects are integrated.
- A white Suffolk sheep stud, commercial beef cattle herd and free-range egg laying hens run in conjunction with pasture, cropping, horticulture and vegetable production.

Lockers

- Yass High School has lockers available for student use. The cost is of \$10 per year.
- Students requiring a locker should see the Front Office staff.
- Parents and students must sign a locker agreement form. Locker agreement forms are available from the front office.
- Day lockers are available for student day use only. Keys are to be collected and returned to the Front Office daily.

Canteen

- Our canteen is open Monday-Friday during recess and lunch.
- The canteen also provides lunch orders and caters for various morning teas, meetings and special events held within the school.



YASS HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Linda Langton Deputy Principals: Andrew Facer and Ruth Riach

Respect, Responsibility and Honesty.