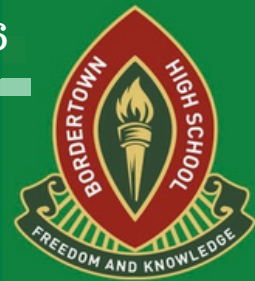


# BORDERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

## Newsletter



Welcome to the beginning of the 2026 school year. We hope all students, families and staff enjoyed a restful break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. A new school year brings renewed energy, fresh opportunities for learning, and a shared commitment to supporting every student to grow, challenge themselves and achieve success.

As we start 2026, we look forward to working in partnership with our community to continue building strong relationships, high expectations and a positive learning culture across our school.

### New Staff

We are delighted to welcome a number of new staff members who have joined our school community this year. Each brings valuable skills, experience and enthusiasm, and we are excited about the contribution they will make to student learning and wellbeing.

Please join us in welcoming: John Ehlers – English; Long Mao – Mathematics / Science, Chiv Lim – Mathematics / Science; Sara Duncan – Mathematics; Gemma Broadley – HASS; Rachael Farmer – English; Cassie Munro – Inclusive Education; Sarah McDonald – SSO; Raemi Morris – SSO; Julia Halaseh-Russo – SSO; Jayde Barton – SSO and Warren Frazer – Maintenance.

### Vision and Values Refresh

In 2026, we will continue our work on refreshing our school Vision and Values to ensure they clearly reflect who we are, what we stand for, and our aspirations for students now and into the future. This work is an important part of strengthening our school identity and ensuring our shared expectations guide teaching, learning and relationships across the school.

Further consultation with staff, students and our wider community will take place during Term 1, providing opportunities for voices from across our school community to contribute to this important work. We look forward to sharing more information about how families can be involved.

### Governing Council Elections

I invite parents and caregivers to consider nominating for our school Governing Council in 2026. The Governing Council plays an important role in shaping the strategic direction of the school, supporting student learning and wellbeing, and strengthening the partnership between families and the school.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 February, where Governing Council elections will take place. A nomination form is attached to this newsletter for parents and caregivers who are interested in nominating.

### Swimming Carnival

Thank you to staff, students and families who were able to accommodate the change in day and format for this year's swimming carnival. It was fantastic to see so many parents and grandparents attending the event and supporting students and the school. We will be seeking some feedback on the format of the carnival, due to the changed format. Please take the opportunity to provide your thoughts if you can.

### Important Reminders for Students and Families

I would like to remind families of several important expectations that support student safety, wellbeing and a positive learning environment:

## IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY

- 11 Meet and Greet Night
- 13 SEZ Swimming Carnival
- 19 School Photos
- 24 Standards Day
- 27 SSSA Swimming Adelaide

### MARCH

- 6 Athletics Day
- 9 Adelaide Cup Day
- 10 Student Free Day

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country, the Potaruwutj people and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respect to elders – past, present and emerging.



### Mobile Phones

Students are reminded that mobile phones must be used in line with the school's mobile phone policy. Phones must be switched off and securely stored during the school day unless approved by staff for learning purposes. If a student is found using a mobile phone during the school day without permission, the phone will be confiscated and parents/caregivers will be contacted and asked to collect the device from the school.

### School Uniform

Students are expected to be in full school uniform each day. This includes appropriate attire for physical education and sports days. Tank tops and singlets are not permitted, including on sport or special activity days.

### Hats – Term 1

As part of our sun safety practices, hats are required to be worn outdoors during Term 1. This supports student health and wellbeing during warmer weather.

### Footwear Changes

Please note that steel-capped footwear is not permitted at school. Students should wear appropriate, enclosed footwear suitable for learning and movement throughout the day.

I appreciate families' support in reinforcing these expectations with students as we work together to ensure a safe, respectful and productive school environment.

I wish everyone a successful start to the 2026 school year and look forward to all that the year will bring.

Alicia Keatley  
Principal

## Twilight Swimming Carnival Feedback

Thank you to all of the parents and community members who supported our recent twilight swimming carnival on the 3rd of February.

We are now seeking your feedback on the changed timeslot.

**Please email [dl.0894.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0894.info@schools.sa.edu.au)**

Your input helps us to plan future school events.



## Meet and Greet Night



*We look forward to seeing you at our "Meet and Greet" Night*

A flyer for 'Meet and Greet Night' on Wednesday 11th February. It features a red arrow pointing from the feedback text to the flyer. The flyer includes the school crest in the top right corner and lists three events: 1. Meet and Greet Night (6.00pm-6.30pm in the Quadrangle, meeting new staff for 2026, light refreshments provided). 2. Year 7 Meeting (6.30pm in the STEM Centre, information and Q&amp;A for students and families). 3. Year 12 Meeting (6.30pm in the Study Hub, information for students and families about SACE and Future Pathways).

### Meet and Greet Night

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

- 6.00pm-6.30pm in the Quadrangle
- Come along to meet our new staff for 2026
- Light refreshments provided

### Year 7 Meeting

6.30pm in the STEM Centre

Year 7 information and Q&A for students and families

### Year 12 Meeting

6.30pm in the Study Hub

Information for students and families about:

SACE

Future Pathways

# Governing Council

## Bordertown High School

Governing Council AGM

Wednesday 18th February 2026

at 7pm in the High School Study Hub

Apologies to the High School on 8752 1455 or email dl.0894.info@schools.sa.edu.au

The Governing Council represents the parent body of the school and sets the general direction of the school, and supports staff to get the best outcomes for students.

**Nominations to the Bordertown High School front office by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

We have a number of positions to fill, please consider nominating.

### Bordertown High School Governing Council Nomination for Election Form 2026



I .....(full name) of .....(address)

#### ***Nominate***

.....(full name) of .....(address)

To be elected as a member of Bordertown High School Governing Council

I .....(full name) of .....(address)

Accept the nomination and hereby declare that:

- I have not been declared bankrupt and do not receive a benefit of a law for the relief of insolvent debtors.
- I have not been convicted of any offence of dishonesty, or for a sexual nature involving a minor, or of violence against a person.

I understand that should I be declared bankrupt, receive a benefit of law for the relief of insolvent debtors or be convicted of any of the offences listed, my membership of Bordertown High School Governing Council will cease.

Signed..... Date ...../...../.....

# Welcome To Our New Teaching Staff

## Gemma Broadley

Hi, I'm Gemma Broadley and I'm very excited to be a new HASS teacher at Bordertown High School this year.

A little about me, I like long walks on the beach, watching the sunset... In all seriousness, I'm an avid lover of travel, and love learning and feel very grateful to be a part of this school and wider community.

I've moved an odd 1800km (via a road trip during the heatwave with a broken air conditioner) from Brisbane where I was working as a Data Analyst in the Non-for-Profit industry. I come from a big family with three younger siblings, and teacher parents. I am a Teach for Australia Associate and will be studying my Master of Teaching while teaching over the next two years.

I feel very grateful for the warm welcome to Bordertown, and am looking forward to my time with the school community.



## Sara Duncan

"Hi I'm Sara and have moved Bordertown High School in 2026 teaching Mathematics. I have been teaching for the past two years on the Eyre Peninsula and am excited to joining the teaching team at Bordertown.

I am new to teaching after a career in the health and disability sectors working in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. My undergraduate qualifications are in Science and Engineering and I finished my Masters of Teaching in 2025.

I am appreciative to be joining the community in Bordertown who have been very welcoming and supportive since I arrived. I look forward to meeting students and families as I work with you throughout the coming year."



## John Ehlers

I look forward to teaching English classes in Years 7, 9, 10 and 12. Having started teaching at Wudinna Area School in 1994, coming to Bordertown feels like a return to country. The last two years I have been at Ernabella Anangu School in the APY Lands of north-west SA, and previously at Leigh Creek, Kadina and Aberfoyle Park High School.

My wife is at our home in the Adelaide Hills near Strathalbyn and our three children are at university and employment in Adelaide. They look forward during the year to visit Bordertown.



## Chiv Lim

"Hi, My name is Chiv and I am one of the new science teachers at Bordertown High School. This is my first year in this role, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow alongside my students.

I come from Cambodia (Southeast Asia), and I can speak three languages including English, Khmer, and Chinese (Mandarin).

I am passionate about creating a supportive, engaging classroom where everyone feel encouraged to ask questions, share ideas, and do their best. I look forward to meeting students and people around the community."



# Staffing

## Rachael Farmer

Hi I'm Mrs. Farmer and I am new to BHS this year, teaching Year 10 and 11 English on Thursdays and Fridays. I am from Keith, where I live on a farm with my husband and three kids; some of you may know my girls through dance (and you may know me, too!). I am an avid coffee connoisseur and love to travel wherever I can. On weekends you will find me on a netball court, at a dance comp, or sewing costumes.

I am an English teacher and have previously taught drama – I am passionate about the joy of language and the arts, and I revel in growing the literary and critical thinking skills of my students. My favourite part of being a teacher is getting to know students and supporting them to achieve their full potential as they draw near to the end of their schooling.

I have already felt a warm welcome from staff and students alike and I am enjoying getting to know the community of BHS.



## Cassie Munro

My name is Cassie and I currently work as an Inclusive Education Teacher at Bordertown HS on Wednesday and Thursday. I live in Mount Gambier and am an Inclusive Educator Monday, Tuesday and Fridays. I completed a Bachelor of Education P-12 in 2001 and finished my Masters in Special Educational Needs in 2013.

I enjoy spending times with my children and my dog Teddie on the weekends. You can find me in the Support Office if you need me.



## Long Mao

I am excited to be joining Bordertown High School as a new teacher and becoming part of the local community. I recently moved to town from Adelaide, where I completed high school and university after coming to Australia from Vietnam 8 years ago. I graduated from the University of Adelaide with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Psychology.

I believe Mathematics and Science play an important role in everyday life and I aim to help students see their value beyond the classroom. I want my classroom to be a safe, respectful and supportive space where students feel heard and cared for. My goal is for students to enjoy learning, grow in confidence and make informed choices. I look forward to contributing to the school and getting involved in the community as I begin my teaching journey here.



**Our new SSOs and Grounds Keeper will be featured in the next newsletter**

# Twilight Swimming Carnival

## SWIMMING CARNIVAL

### HOUSE SHIELD - CONGRATULATIONS WALAMBA

Walamba - 1639 points

Canara - 1389 points

Pinjali - 1337 points

Glenora - 1328 points

#### KIRBY CUP WINNERS

Finn Quilter (1:07.81) Runner-up Blake Kennett (1:16.20)  
Tasha Ryan (1:14.45) Runner-up Alekza Meakins (1:20.85)

#### KRUEGER FAST 50 WINNERS

Finn Quilter (29.15)  
Alekza Meakins (33.13)

#### AGE GROUP WINNERS

##### 13yo Girls

Winner Skye Neale 62 pts  
Runner up Stella Kennett 60 pts

##### 13yo Boys

Winner Emmett Phillips 63 pts  
Runner up Spencer Norton 57.5 pts

##### 14yo Girls

Winner Cora Gill - O'Donovan 54 pts  
Runner up Julia Hutchesson 51 pts

##### 14yo Boys

Winner Harry Will 63pts  
Runner up Bentley Schneider 57.5pts

##### 15yo Girls

Winner Tasha Ryan 64 pts  
Runner up Zelie Phillips 58 pts

##### 15yo Boys

Winner Ben Wegener 57 pts  
Runner up Blake Kennett 48 pts

##### 16yo Girls

Winner Talise Phillips 60 pts  
Runner up Beth Carpenter 55 pts

##### 16yo Boys

Winner Will Heinrich 56 pts  
Runner up Darcy Belluzzo 44 pts

##### Open Girls

Winner Alekza Meakins 62 pts  
Runner up Ella Wegener 57 pts

##### Open Boys

Winner Finn Quilter 63 pts  
Runner up Kobi Neale 59 pts



Congratulations Walamba



## RECORDS –

**U13 Boys 50m Freestyle – Emmett Phillips 33.88  
(previous record Blake Kennett 35.81)**

**U13 Boys 50m Breaststroke – Emmett Phillips 49.06  
(previous record Blake Kennett 53.73)**

**U13 Girls 50m Breaststroke – Skye Neale 48.00  
(previous record Talise Phillips 50.37)**

**U14 Boys 50m Butterfly – Harry Will 41.00  
(previous record Blake Kennett 44.52)**

**U15 Girls 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay – Glenora 2:32.72  
(Willa Durbidge, Bella Mead, Tasha Ryan, Gabby Carter)  
(previous record Canara in 1981 with a time of 2:33.10)**

# Boys winners



# Girls winners



# 2026 House Captains

## Canara

### Captains

Alekza Meakins  
Finn Quilter

### Vice Captains

Summer Dimitriadis  
Ben Altus

## Pinjali

### Captains

Ella Wegener  
Archie Dahlitz

### Vice Captains

Lexi Morris  
Jack Heinrich

## Walamba

### Captains

Talise Phillips  
Kobi Neale

### Vice Captains

Cassie Smith  
Joe Wiese

## Glenora

### Captains

Madeline Mead  
Lucas Barras

### Vice Captains

Lacey Pilgrim  
Riley Pertzelt

## ATHLETICS DAY

**Athletics Day is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

### Athletics Carnival help

Can you assist at our Interhouse Athletics Day on Friday 6th March?

If so, please indicate below and return this slip to the High School Front Office as soon as possible.

I am able to assist with:

- Shotput
- Javelin
- High Jump
- Discus
- Long Jump / Triple Jump
- Track - Judging / Timing
- Canteen

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mundulla Deb Ball



The Mundulla Deb Ball will be held this year on Friday 22nd May .

Girls and partners wishing to take part, registration forms are available at Calico Cat Co.

Please note, Deb Ball participation is not restricted to only year 12 High School Students.

If it suits a girl in year 11 better this year or a girl has already or left school or has shifted into the area, they are welcome to join us.

Enquires Sonya Obst 0427534166

Jenny Marshall 0408347081

# APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL CARD



All types of School Card applications are now online.

You can access the online forms from any device that gets internet, including mobile devices, such as tablets and smart phones, as well as laptops and computers.

Applying online is easy! Simply follow the steps below.

**STEP 1** Visit [sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard](http://sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard)

**STEP 2** Select the type of School Card you would like to apply for (for example 'Type A') and follow the prompts.

**STEP 3** Complete all mandatory fields.

*Please note: you cannot submit your application unless all mandatory fields are complete.*

**STEP 4** Once you have completed a page click on the 'NEXT'

**STEP 5** button. Once you have filled out all pages click the 'SUBMIT'

*Please note: if you exit the form without clicking 'SUBMIT' your details will be lost.*  
button.

You can save the form, and return to complete it at another time, by clicking on the 'SAVE' button.



**Government  
of South Australia**  
Department for Education



## Term 1 2026

Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	WEEKEND
0	19	20	21	22	23	24/25 Jan
1 <small>Jan</small>	26 AUSTRALIA DAY HOLIDAY	27	28 Swimming Heats	29	30 Swimming Carnival	31/1 Feb
2 <small>Feb</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7/8 Feb
3 <small>Feb</small>	9	10	11	12	13 SEZ Swimming Mt Gambier	14/15 Feb
4 <small>Feb</small>	16	17	18	19 School Photos	20	21/22 Feb
5 <small>Feb</small>	23	24 Standards Day	25	26 Swimming Adelaide	27	28/1 March
6 <small>Mar</small>	2	3	4	5	6 Athletics Day	7/8 March
7 <small>Mar</small>	9 ADELAIDE CUP HOLIDAY	10 STUDENT FREE DAY	11	12	13	14/15 March
8 <small>Mar</small>	16	17	18 SEZ Athletics	19	20	21/22 March
9 <small>Mar</small>	23	24	25	26	27	28/29 March
10 <small>Apr</small>	30	31 SSSA Athletics Adelaide	1	2	3 GOOD FRIDAY	4/5 Apr EASTER
11 <small>Apr</small>	6 EASTER MONDAY	7 Year 7 Camp (Group 1)	8 Year 7 Camp (Group 1)	9 Year 7 Camp (Group 2)	10 Year 7 Camp (Group 2)	11/12 Apr
Holidays <small>Apr</small>	13	14	15	16	17	18/19 Apr
Holidays <small>Apr</small>	20	21	22	23	24	25/26 Apr