

ROUSE HILL HIGH NEWSLETTER



April 2021 / ISSUE 67

Year 7 Camp

E. Ates, O. Boyd-Skinner and D. Gatehouse



Photo by: J. Cutting

In Week 7, 206 energetic Year 7 students and 18 enthusiastic Year 10 Peer Support Leaders embarked on their journey to Mangrove Mountain. Our school was buzzing with excitement as our Year 7's said goodbye to their families and boarded the bus for what was a fantastic three days away. This was one of the first times in a long time where school life felt like it had returned to normal and we felt very lucky to be going on camp.

Our bus journey was short but scenic as we journeyed to our camp taking in the new NorthConnex and chatting with friends. Unfortunately, this year there was no singing on the bus but plenty of fun was still had.

Year 7 Camp *continued...*

E. Ates, D. Gatehouse and O. Boyd-Skinner

As we arrived at Mangrove Mountain we met the wonderful camp instructors and a touch of chaos as students claimed their bunks and became familiar with their surroundings for our two night stay. After getting settled in, we were off to our first activities which ranged from high ropes to raft building. Despite the weather forecast, we were greeted with overcast skies; perfect for all the outdoor activities. Our first night ended with a challenge activity to further build our relationships as a year group. Congratulations to Mr Mudliar for being the only staff member to successfully climb around a table without falling off! Our teachers will be training hard to claim the title next year!



Year 7 take on rock climbing. Photo by: E. Ates

Day Two was a full day of activities that challenged Year 7 mentally and physically and it was an absolute joy to watch Year 7 develop their grit and resilience. We also had our students look for bravery, encouragement, and kindness in their groups as these were our values during the camp. Many students became experts at putting on a harness by the end of the day.

Our final day of camp had us waking very early to pack up our rooms, eat some breakfast and finish our last two activities. More students were combatting their fears as they climbed, jumped and soared and eventually it was time to say goodbye to Mangrove Mountain. Our bus journey back to school was quiet and calm, with many students sound asleep after an exhilarating three days away. As we arrived at school the bus was buzzing again. Hugs between friends and families were had, dinner requests for the night were made, and a lot of catching up was taking place...

As Year Coordinators and Head Teacher for Wellbeing we would like to thank our Year 10 Peer Support Leaders for joining staff and Year 7. They gave up time before their Mid-Course Examinations to motivate and encourage younger students. The camp would not have been the success it was without all of you.

We had a wonderful time watching our Year 7's develop their friendships and face their fears, and we know that students will remember this camp for many years to come. We look forward to seeing you continue our values of bravery, encouragement and kindness and to always face challenges head on.

Shark Tank - Young Entrepreneurs Pitch Their Innovative Ideas

D. Gatehouse and R. Lal



As part of the HSC Stage 6 Business Studies course, students have been working collaboratively in teams to prepare a small business plan based on a hypothetical business to be presented in a business report format. This report included a variety of information such as marketing strategies and a SWOT analysis.



The key competencies of the Business Studies syllabus of collecting, analysing and organising information and communicating ideas and information were enhanced through this project. Students worked individually and in groups to conduct business investigations, and through this, the key competencies of planning and organising activities and working with others and in teams were developed.



On Friday the 19th of March, students had the opportunity to present and pitch their business ideas to Mr Krishan Prasad, lecturer at Western Sydney University. Mr Prasad judged all the presentations and awarded 1st placed group members with gift vouchers that were sponsored by Western Sydney University. The HSIE faculty is incredibly thankful for Mr Prasad to once again take the time out of his busy schedule to attend Rouse Hill High School.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winning team: Amelia L, Emma R, Lilly P, Justin S and Joao C. The 2nd place was awarded to Hannah P, Jaiden V, Brooke V and Olivia J. All students should be proud of their efforts and dedication towards Business Studies.

Careers

K. Henson

Year 12 UAC University Admissions Presentation

Year 12 students warmly welcomed the UAC representative Susanna, who presented information on University applications and admission on Wednesday 24th March in the library. Students were invited to ask individual questions during and at the completion of the presentation. They were given the guide 'Steps to Uni for Year 11 and Year 12 Students' and can follow up on the information by accessing the UAC website uac.edu.au and also by accessing individual University websites of their choice.

The UAC representative indicated that the new UAC guides for Year 12 should arrive early next term.

Year 11

Year 11 students are encouraged to also visit the UAC website and individual University websites for information on courses of interest.

Years 8 and 9

Students in Years 8 and 9 have completed individual profiles on their career interests, skills and abilities. They are to be commended on their current engagement and interest in their career exploration.



Photo by: K. Henson

Year 10 Work Experience in Term 3

Week 3 Monday 26th July to Friday 30th July. Classes 10G, 10R and 10O

Week 4 Monday 2nd August to Friday 6th August. Classes 10T, 10H and 10W

Work experience is an important part of the career planning process. It provides students with the opportunity to:

- develop skills and attitudes that may assist in the transition from school to work.
- gain insights into a specific career/field by trying out a job in a chosen industry.
- experience the real world of work and collect career information.
- secure casual or part-time employment if desired.
- gain a work reference.
- network with employers in a chosen industry for future employment opportunities.

MathsOnline

J. Chan

All Year 7 to 10 students at Rouse Hill High School have access to MathsOnline, which is provided by the school. This is an opportunity for students to utilise the online program to support their learning of mathematics.

The program provides online tutorials in the form of animated videos showing examples of the concept. Following each maths tutorial, there are interactive questions and printable worksheets which test the understanding of key concepts. Answers are entered into the automated MathsOnline marking system which then stores the results in each individual student's ongoing progress report. Teachers can then view this report and tailor the teaching and learning experience for individual students.

Teachers at RHHS utilise this program to set class and home learning tasks. These tasks can be differentiated for individual student needs. Teachers can track the progress of these tasks by receiving information on results, completion rates and how many attempts a student makes on each task.

We would appreciate parent support in encouraging their child to use MathsOnline at home. They can even use the program to practise skills such as times tables and basic arithmetic.

If you have any questions about MathsOnline, please do not hesitate to contact the Mathematics Faculty.

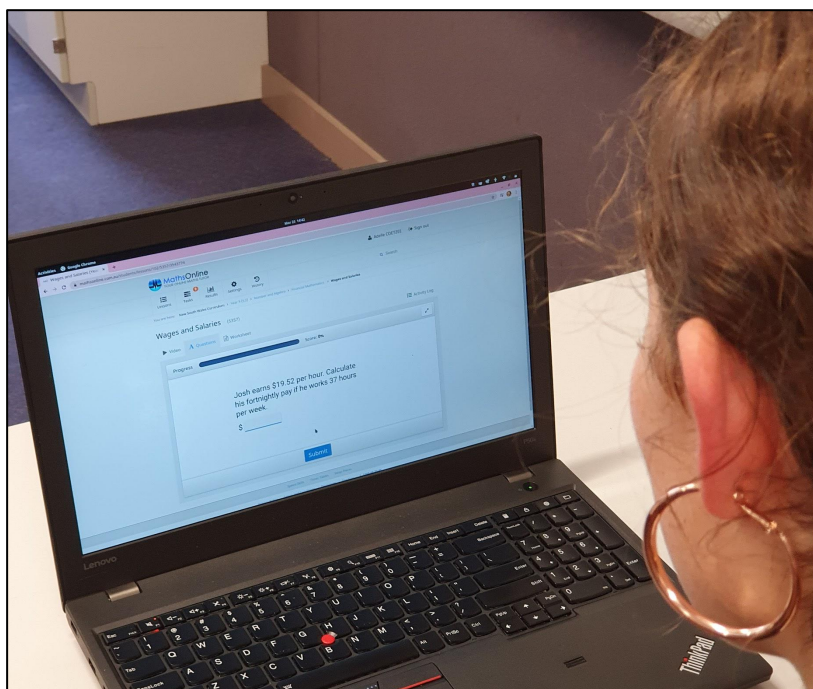


Photo by: J. Chan

Stage 6 PDHPE & Sport Coaching First Aid

J. Garcia

In Week 7, our Stage 6 PDHPE & Sport Coaching students had the opportunity to put their knowledge and skills into action by completing a First Aid Course, through Royal Life Saving Australia. Students were able to practically apply course content covered in both courses through a range of real life scenarios and simulated medical emergencies.

As well as completing a theoretical component, students developed their skills in DRSABCD, bandaging and responding to general injuries.

All students involved had a great time and are now ready to take on any First Aid situations they may face. We would like to thank RLSA and PDHPE staff for facilitating this course.



Photos by: V. Nget

Art Express Excursion

S. Kirby

ARTEXPRESS 2021 features a selection of outstanding student artworks developed for the art-making component of the HSC examination in Visual Arts in 2020.

Rouse Hill High School's senior art students visited the exhibition on Tuesday 16th March and thought that the artworks were amazing. Students left the exhibition filled with inspiration and fabulous ideas to kick start their own artistic journey as young artist about to tackle the HSC.



Stage 6 Investigating Science and Stage 5 Zootopia Excursions

L. Dailly and A. Pobjie

Stage 5 Zootopia

The Zootopia elective course allows Stage 5 students to explore areas that interest them in the fields of zoology, biology and environmental science.

Year 1.0 Zootopia students recently travelled to the Sydney Zoo at Bungarribee to observe exotic and native animal species, and prepare for their research project into animal behaviour. Students were most impressed by the lion group, four brothers who displayed social behaviours to maintain their tight family bond, and the meerkats, who showed us how they work together to protect against invaders. Discussions were extended to the classroom, where students considered the differences between animal behaviour in the wild and in captivity.



Stage 6 Investigating Science

Our field study to the Brewongle Environmental Education Centre took our students out of the classroom and onto the Hawkesbury River. After a Welcome to Country and a quick bush walk, the Investigating Science students were treated to a range of water testing techniques. This was not only done on the (not yet flooded) banks of the river but samples and data were also taken from their kayaks! Despite some students' best effort, Mr Dailly remained unsinkable in his kayak for another year.

Students were then able to investigate their samples back at the Education Centre and compare with a huge range of data from other schools. Finding and identifying a range of algae and other microscopic organisms proved to be enjoyable, particularly when given such creative new classification names by the class.

Stage 6 Industrial Technology Timber

B. Byfield

The Stage 6 Industrial Technology Timber class have recently completed their Preliminary practical task, which was to design and construct a timber bedside table whilst meeting specific criteria. The students all successfully completed their projects with some pleasing final designs. Some valuable skills were developed in effectively using a variety of tools and machinery for the construction.

Students also investigated a business within the timber industry. They were required to either interview a business person or research a variety of factors online that are relevant to the industry. Some areas of their research included: organisational structure of a business, job description of employees, technical factors of day to day operations and environmental issues related to the business.



Photos: B. Byfield

Harmony Day!

E. Ates and A. Reddy

Harmony Day was celebrated at Rouse Hill High School on the 16th of March this year. Students were involved in spreading the message of unity through the creation of the Map of the World stalls. These stalls were designed to represent a culture of the world and had various activities, sweets and gifts.

Students spent their recess and lunch visiting stalls and participating in cultural activities. Teachers and students participated in henna stalls, ate various foods from Canada, Serbia and Croatia and played a fun game of cricket.

A good time was had by all staff and students who came together as one community.



Photos by B. Atkins



Enaya P, Year 1.0 delegate and co-organiser, describes Harmony Day 2021:

Our planning process began at the beginning of the term when we envisioned this event and how it might run. We brainstormed a range of ideas including a cultural dress competition and a lesson on diversity and multiculturalism, during Wednesday morning lessons before settling on the idea of having stalls of the world. This would allow students of different cultures to come together to embrace their nationality and our school's diversity.

Along with the fortune cookie stall run by Mrs Wang's China Club, we were able to have additional Canada, Australia, Serbia, India and Croatia stalls. These stalls included food tasting and activities such as cricket at the Australia stall and henna at the India stall. Teachers and students also had the opportunity to wear cultural clothing, with the students running the India stall wearing cultural dress along with teachers such as Mrs Lal and Mrs Reddy wearing saree.

We were pleased to have a wonderful positive outcome with many students and teachers engaging in these stalls and activities and are looking forward to next year's Harmony Day!

2021 Academic Competition Schedule

D. Williams

At Rouse Hill we provide opportunity for ambitious students to challenge themselves academically both within and outside the normal school curriculum.

One way that we do this is by supporting students in participating in external academic competitions at various points throughout the year.

Term 1 has been all-HSIE, with the Australian Geography Competition and Australian History Competition made available to our students.

The Australian Geography Competition, challenges student knowledge and skills in geography, with high achievers winning prizes and the chance to represent Australia in the the International Geography Olympiad. We have a strong track record of high performance and we look forward to seeing our 2021 students shine.



The Australian History competition, for students in Years 7-10, is tied to the National Curriculum and offers students a challenging and exciting way to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Entries have now closed, but we trust our students will do us proud in the competition next term.

The AMT and ICAS will this year both be held in Term 3, with registrations closing in Term 2.

The AMT (Australian Mathematics Competition) is a popular and engaging 30-problem competition that tests the boundaries of your maths abilities.

ICAS, facilitated by the University of New South Wales, is the flagship of our competition season. This year, six different competitions are on offer for our students (Science, Writing, Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, and Spelling).

Speak to your teachers to find out more!



Advanced English Sydney Jewish Museum Incursion

By Anthony R - Advanced English Student

On Wednesday 6th March, students of Advanced English participated in a workshop run by the Sydney Jewish Museum regarding the treasured stories of the Holocaust and its survivors. Students critically explored the successes and weaknesses of texts in documenting the past, such as 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne and 'Life is Beautiful' directed by Roberto Benigni. Students found it interesting to discuss the meaning behind specific literary details with our presenters, whilst reflecting on their purpose in portraying unique perspectives on the Holocaust.

A highlight of the event was the chance to listen to the story of special guest; Mark Spiegelman, Holocaust Survivor. Students were captivated by his story of survival and the traumas Spiegelman faced growing up in occupied Poland. The unique life of our special guest brought a new meaning to the word 'hope', with many students finding themselves comforted by Spiegelman's positive outlook concerning the past.

Our audience was surprised to learn that his survival story is featured in the graphic novel, 'Maus' by Art Spiegelman - available in the library. His answers to the group's questions did much to cheer up the room as his humour shined through the wounds of his childhood.

As a result, the Senior Advanced English students took away many notes for their assessment task on 'Narratives that Shape Our World', whilst being reminded of the resilience of survivors and their stories.



Photos by B. Atkins

Library & Information Services

D. Williams

Welcome to new members of our school community, and welcome back to all of our existing students, staff, and families. The library is here to support your information, literacy, and related school needs.



I invite you to check-out our wide collection of ebooks and audiobooks via the app, ePlatform by Wheelers. It's available on all devices. Alternatively, you can browse directly from your browser by clicking the link: <https://rousehillhs.eplatform.co/>

Students are able to borrow from this resource by using their NSW Department of Education details (hint: they're the same as used for the school WiFi).

If you haven't already taken the time to view the online library, I hope that you'll manage to in the break. Regular reading is one of the best ways for you to support your learning outside of formal learning activities.

Don't forget, if print is more your thing, or if you'd just like to browse the space, our physical library is open to students during recess and lunch, for study, socialising, and finding that next great read.

Congratulations to Tailor-Jay, Alishba, Mikhaela, Elijah, and Mason-Carter for being the top five borrowers for Term 1. If you have not already done so, claim your prize from the library.



A special recognition also goes to the determined, and clearly hyper-literary murmuration of mynas who have been tenacious in their attempts to enter the library this term.



@rhhslibrary



@LibraryRHHS



@RHHS_Library

Download the ePlatform App



iOS devices



Android devices



Windows devices

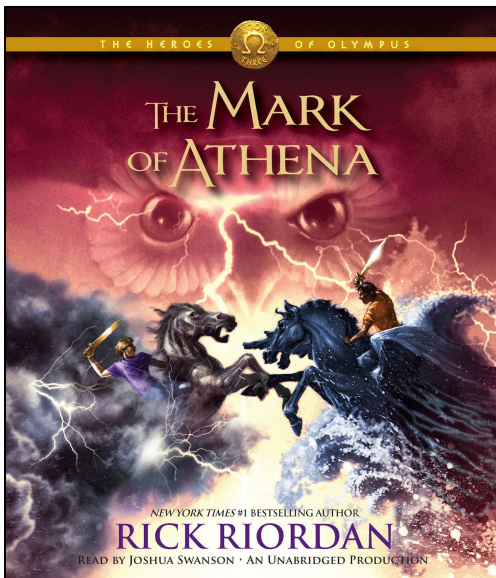
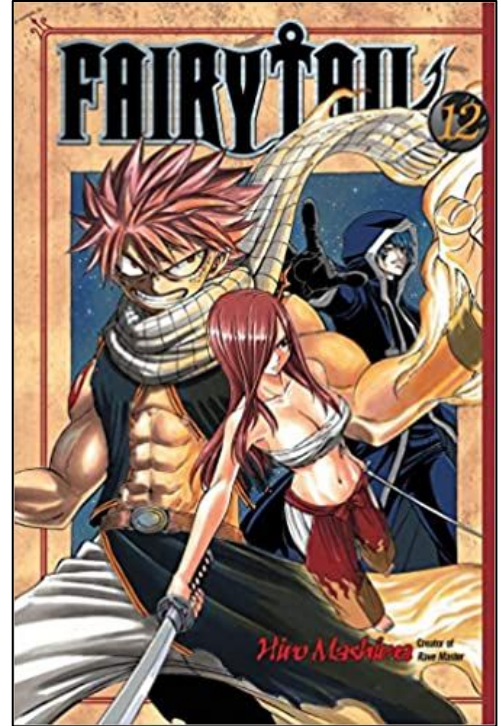
Book Corner!

Looking for something different to read?
Here are some recommendations from two students in 7D.

'Fairy Tail 12' by Hiro Mashima is a manga story about Ezra, who grew up as a slave. She travels to her old slave home where her friends who couldn't escape have eventually come to worship the evil man, Zeref. Ezra is to be used as a sacrifice and drawing upon dark magic, to summon Larcade from the dead to rule the world. Ezra's friends go to The Tower of Heaven to convince her old slave friends to join their side. An epic fight to stop the end of the world begins.

My favourite part is where Ezra and Zeref are about to die after the magic council summoned a cannon over The Tower of Heaven. They hug because they had been such close friends, almost family, before he turned evil. I liked the tension and the twists in the storyline and graphics.

By Christopher



Photos by: B. Atkins

'The Mark of Athena' is another adventurous thriller written by Rick Riordan. In this story, the seven demigods go to find Athena Parthenos, who is somehow destined to help save the world. Annabeth begins a seemingly impossible quest, one in which no child of Athena has previously survived.

It is a really good book and probably my favourite in the series so far. I enjoyed reading about Annabeth's quest, especially as it was so difficult and seemed there was no way she could survive.

By Sohaaib

Chess Club

D. Williams

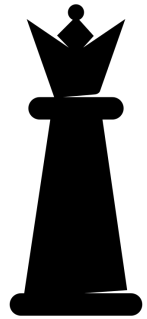
RHHS Double-Elimination Open Tournament

As we speak, or rather write and read, the finals of the 2021 RHHS Open Chess Tournament are underway. This year has seen another influx of strong year 7 players, who make an impressive showing in a competition against their older peers.

A double-elimination means that each player can lose one match and still win the overall competition through tenacity, cleverness, and a great deal of concentration.

Congratulations to Andre in Year 7, who has won third place. The battle for the championship is currently underway in a close contest between Imran (Year 10) and Leon (Year 12). Out of three matches, each player has a win, with one draw leading into an ultimate decider!

Stay tuned.



Interschool Chess Challenge - Round 1

On Thursday the eleventh of March, a team of students from Rouse Hill competed in the first round of the 2021 Interschool Chess Challenge.

Covid-19 restrictions have led to this year's competition shifting, at least for these early rounds, into an entirely online format. This was not without its share of technical difficulties, which our team met with resilience, adaptability and patience.

Nevertheless, our students comported themselves well and demonstrated how much they've improved over the past year. A particular mention to Giovanni, who held the 2nd place position for several rounds.



SYDNEY
ACADEMY OF CHESS



Premier's Reading Challenge

D. Williams



The Premier's Reading Challenge is an annual extracurricular opportunity for students in Years 7-9 to sow the seeds of a life-long love of reading while receiving the benefits of reduced stress, increased literacy, and boosted capacity for memory and sustained concentration that come with regular reading.

The rules of the challenge are fairly straightforward. To complete the challenge and receive an award, a student must:

- Read 20 books between September 2020 and August 2021
- 15 of these books must be from the approved PRC list (available online)

There exists a clear correlation between a student's reading habits and their overall literacy skills. Though aside from this, the well-proven benefits that come along with the ability to read for sustained periods of time are such that I wish for all our students, and for that measure, our whole school community.

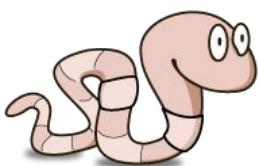
In terms of incentive, each student who completes the award receives a certificate of recognition, that can be used to demonstrate commitment, dedication, and zest for learning.

Special certificates are awarded to students completing the challenge for their 4th and 7th times, with gold and platinum certificates respectively. I'd like to take this moment to point out that many of our students are on the cusp of their next level and encourage them to take up the challenge this year.

For those rare students who are able to complete the challenge every year between Year 3 and 9, the Premier's Medallion is a prestigious and remarkable prize that you're eligible for.

A point-of-difference in 2021, coming as a result of the chaotic year that was 2020, sees the criteria for the challenge, and particularly for the medallion more accessible.

- For the first time, students in Year 10 are able to participate in the challenge. If they would have been eligible to receive the medallion in 2020, they will receive it on completion of the challenge in 2021.





| NSW Department of Education

2021 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

Key dates for students in K-10:

Challenge opens
Monday March 1

Challenge closes
for student entries
Friday August 20

Artwork by Dr
Bronwyn Bancroft

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.gov.au



Duke of Edinburgh

D. Williams

Are you looking for a challenge?

Something to boost your skills, broaden your horizons, enrich your life, and equip you for success in a shifting and dynamic world?

Look no further than the internationally renowned award scheme for young people, the Duke of Edinburgh's award.

For more than 65 years, this award scheme has allowed young people around the world a way to undertake rigorous and memorable learning experiences that will benefit them as they prepare to enter the adult world.

The program includes: community service, skill development, physical recreation, and adventurous journeys.

If you're in Years 9-12, or aged 14-25, you're able to enter the program.

Find out more: <http://dukeofed.org.au/>

Proud to deliver

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
INTERNATIONAL AWARD**



attendance MATTERS

WHY DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER?

MISSING SCHOOL MEANS MISSING OUT!

Regular attendance helps students develop social skills such as friendship building, teamwork and a healthy self-esteem.



FOR NOW AND THEIR



FUTURE

An increase of attendance by just 5% can double the chances of gaining good qualifications and set up positive habits for life and employment.

RESULTS ARE SEEN IN HIGH ATTENDERS

In all analyses, average academic achievement on NAPLAN declined as absence rates increased. Gaps in learning from one poor year of attendance have a flow-on effect in future years.



IT ALL ADDS UP



Missing two days per month means a student misses 10% of the school year. Turning up 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost in the year

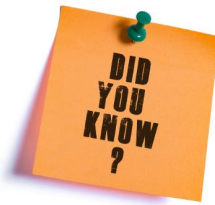
AT ROUSE HILL HIGH SCHOOL

attendance
communication
you

MATTERS

At Rouse Hill High School, Attendance Matters.

By M. Vogt



The Department of Education has set the target for students to **attend school 90% of the time.**

When your student misses just one day every fortnight, they miss 4 weeks of school per year.

This is 6 months of schooling in High School or 1 year in their entire school life.

Attendance has been proven to be one of the most powerful predictors of academic achievement and can have a dramatic impact on key milestones, including 9th grade NAPLAN achievement, high school graduation, and postsecondary persistence. **Chronic absenteeism is missing 10% of school (or 18 days), regardless of the reason.** This is why the Department of Education has set the target for students to attend school 90% of the time.

All parents have dreams for their children and want the best for them. At Rouse Hill High School, we are here to support all parents in their children's learning and attendance.

Attendance Matters is our whole school strategy to promote awareness and action to improve attendance. From Term 2, information posts, interclass competitions, recognition awards and incentives will be promoted to create awareness regarding the importance of being here every day! Stay tuned for upcoming events!



RHHS NOTICEBOARD

P&C

NEWS

The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 10 May 2021 at 7pm. All parents and carers are welcome to attend. If you would like to be added to the P&C email list, simply email rousehillhighschoolpc@gmail.com

ADVERTISING IN THE ROUSE HILL HIGH NEWSLETTER

Rouse Hill High School's newsletter contains paid advertisements. The publication of such advertisements does not imply endorsement of any product or service by the NSW Department of Education or Rouse Hill High School.

If you are interested in advertising your business or community group in the next edition of this newsletter please visit

<https://rousehill-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doesws/schools/r/rousehill-h/policy-documents/NewsletterAdvertisingPolicy2020.pdf> and download a newsletter policy for requirements and procedures.

UPCOMING EVENTS

19 April 2021

School Development Day

20 April 2021

First day of Term 2

23 April 2021

Athletics Carnival

10 May 2021

Senior Recognition Assembly

**Parent attendance to be advised*

11, 12, 13 May

NAPLAN - Year 7 & Year 9

17 May

Stage 6 Reports published to Millennium Parent Portal

20 May

Year 7 & Year 8 Vaccinations

Rouse Hill High School

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