



**CALLAGHAN
COLLEGE**

Waratah Campus

WARATAH CAMPUS NEWS

**TERM 1 2024
WEEK 4 EDITION**

WELCOME YEAR 7

New opportunities at Waratah

In this issue -

Staff development days

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NSWEduChat EFFECTIVE AI

Callaghan Waratah has been selected as one of 16 schools to help shape the use of technology in learning.

Learn more about NSWEduChat on page 9.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Ms Nicole Avard, Rel. Principal

Welcome back to a new school year at Waratah Campus! It's been wonderful to see our students return to the classrooms, ready to embark on another year of learning and growth. Our dedicated teachers are eagerly anticipating a successful 2024 and are committed to partnering with you to ensure this is a memorable and fulfilling year for your child.

I want to extend a special congratulations to our Year 7 students and teachers. The transition to high school can be a significant milestone, and it has been heartening to witness our new Year 7 cohort adapt so positively to the new routines and expectations. The energy and engagement in our Middle School classrooms is inspiring, with new connections forming and a real buzz of learning in the air.

As we embrace the opportunities and challenges that the new year brings, I encourage each of our students to approach 2024 with curiosity, enthusiasm, and a sense of agency over their own learning journey. This year is not only about acquiring knowledge but also about developing the resilience and character that will serve our students beyond the classroom.

I urge every student to uphold and nurture our unique school culture here at Waratah Campus – one defined by mutual respect, support, collaboration, inclusivity, and the celebration of everyone's unique qualities.

Looking ahead, I want to remind you that Student-Led Conferences will take place this term. These conferences are designed to empower students to take ownership of their learning and to foster meaningful conversations about their progress with both families and teachers. It is also an excellent opportunity for students to set their learning goals for the year ahead. If you require any assistance with booking, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school.

Additionally, I would like to emphasise the importance of consistent attendance for our students. Regular attendance is crucial for academic success and we encourage families to visit the [Every Day Matters website](#) for resources and information on how to support and maintain good attendance habits.

I am truly excited for the year ahead and am confident that, together, we will create a nurturing and enriching environment for all our students to thrive.



SNAPSHOTS

Out and about at Callaghan Waratah



A big shoutout to our wonderful new Year 7 students!

We're thrilled to see their enthusiasm and energy as they embrace their high school learning. Our students have already completed the Connection Point program, settled seamlessly to their Middle School classes, and even participated in their first whole-campus assembly and weekly sport rotation.

We can't wait to see the amazing things these students will accomplish throughout their high school journey!

SNAPSHOTS

Out and about at Callaghan Waratah



Love was in the air at Waratah Campus on Valentine's Day!

Students rocked the lunchtime Valentine's Day karaoke, struck a pose in our dress-up photo booth and indulged in delicious treats at the fundraiser stall.

Students had a blast celebrating with friends, making new connections and spreading the love!

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

SDD in the city

Staff Development Days are an opportunity for school staff to engage in learning opportunities to further develop and enhance their skill set.

For our first Staff Development Day of 2024, over 300 staff from Callaghan College partnered with industry experts to be inspired by real world application of skills.

Staff engaged in a unique learning opportunity to support the new curriculum, focussing on how we teach and the relevant skillsets required to help our students reach their goals.

Across the day, activities included a behind the scenes look at The Rocky Horror Show at Civic Theatre, learning about hotel operations and management at Crystalbrook Kingsley, fashion design with High Tea With Mrs Woo and information and learning sessions at The University of Newcastle City Campus.

At Callaghan College, we place a strong emphasis on holistic development, empowering students in their learning, whilst also offering a wide range of programs and extracurricular activities to create curious, creative and engaged learners.



SAFE ON SOCIALS

Responsible use of social media

In line with the recent Safer Internet Day, it's important to remind our students about the responsible use of social media and group chats.

Our school upholds a zero-tolerance policy for bullying and harassment, whether it occurs online or in person.

We encourage students to use social media and group chats in a respectful and positive manner, being mindful of the impact their words and actions can have on others. If anyone experiences or witnesses any form of online bullying or harassment, we urge them to reach out to their Year Advisor, Deputy or another trusted adult.

Together, we can promote a culture of kindness and empathy both online and offline.



UNIFORM SHOP

An important update on our uniform shop

We are excited to announce that our on-campus uniform shop is being relocated to make it more accessible for our families.

As part of this transition, the shop will be temporarily closed from Wednesday, 21st February to Wednesday, 6th March (inclusive) for refurbishments.

During this time, if you need to order uniforms, please consider ordering online or visiting the School Locker shop located at the University of Newcastle at the following address:

Shop 1/Floor 2 Shortland Union Building
130 University Drive
Callaghan NSW 2308



The University School Locker shop's opening hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this transition period. We look forward to welcoming you to the new and improved on-campus uniform shop soon.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Say cheese!

Our School Photo Day is scheduled for this Thursday, 22nd February 2024 with a catch-up day on Thursday 29th February.

We encourage you to remind your child about this event so they come prepared with their best smile!

If you would like to have a family photo taken, please ensure all siblings make their way to the Drama Theatre during Break 1 on Thursday.

Orders for photos can be placed through the MSP Online Platform. Last week, MSP sent out instructions to all families on how to order photos online. A note of importance: **the deadline for placing family photo orders is midnight on Wednesday, 21st February 2024.** Please ensure all orders are submitted before this cut-off time, as no family orders will be accepted online after this point.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your order, please don't hesitate to contact MSP directly on 02 4966 8292 or via email at orders.hcc@msh.com.au

We look forward to capturing memorable moments of our students!



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Thursday 22nd Feb

CATCH UP DAY

Thursday 29th Feb



ORDERING

Check your emails for ordering details sent from MSP

SUN SAFE AT SCHOOL

Being sun safe at school

With the recent run of very hot weather, it's important to remind our teens about the importance of sun safety.

We encourage all students to wear a hat during physical education classes, Wednesday sports, and during break times to protect themselves from harmful UV rays.

Wearing a hat is a simple yet effective way to reduce the risk of sunburn and long-term skin damage.

Let's work together to instill good sun protection habits in our teens and ensure they enjoy outdoor activities safely.



WELCOME EVENING

An informative night for our EALD families

Waratah Campus is hosting a special welcome and information evening for newly arrived students who are learning English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) and their families.

The event will provide an opportunity to meet key support staff, learn about school processes, and connect with other families.

Interpreters will be available to assist.

Information will be sent out to our EALD families shortly with further details.



OUR STUDENT VOICES

Student leadership at Callaghan Waratah

At Waratah Campus, we take great pride in our vibrant student voice and leadership program, offering valuable opportunities for students to actively participate in decision-making and nurture their leadership skills.

We invite students to explore the following student leadership groups in 2024:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Supported by Mr Myers, this group plays a pivotal role in organising assemblies, contributing to special school events, and providing input into the School Improvement Plan.

ABORIGINAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

Working with Darren Woodhouse and the Aboriginal Education team, this group focuses on building relationships with Partner Primary schools, supporting year transition programs, and organising events that promote a deeper understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

EALD STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

Supported by Mr Garbutt, this group promotes inclusivity, ensures diverse perspectives are considered in school planning, and coordinates Harmony Day and community art activities to foster a welcoming and inclusive school environment.

JUNIOR AECG

A formal structure with elected roles, this group collaborates with other Junior AECG teams and the AECG Council to shape its direction and foster a strong community connection.

All student leaders are expected to demonstrate commitment, accountability, strong communication skills, positivity, confidence, empathy, and effective listening. We are committed to developing these qualities in all students who join our leadership teams.

If you are interested in getting involved, please provide your name to Mr Myers at the Gunya Room, and keep an eye out for meeting times in the Daily Notices.

We are excited to welcome our students to these enriching leadership opportunities and look forward to the positive contributions they will make to our school community.

GUNYA NEWS

News from the Gunya Room

At Waratah Campus, we are dedicated to strengthening the educational outcomes and wellbeing of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Over the next three weeks, our Aboriginal Education team will be focusing on these important initiatives:

PERSONALISED LEARNING PATHWAYS (PLPs) FOR 2024

Our PLPs aim to empower students to express their individual strengths, needs, and goals for the year. Through discussions with their families and mentor teachers, students will receive tailored support to enhance their learning experience. We eagerly anticipate welcoming families to the school to actively participate in this vital process.

RECRUITMENT FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP AND JUNIOR AECG

We are currently recruiting for our Aboriginal Student Leadership Group and Junior AECG for 2024. These opportunities provide a wonderful platform for your child to develop leadership skills and make a positive contribution to the school community. See opposite for more details.

YARN UP WITH FAMILIES

Save the date for our upcoming yarn up with families on Thursday, 14th March. More information will be sent home soon.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new team members, Student Learning Support Officers Ryan and Bailey. Their contributions will further enrich our efforts to support and uplift our students.



NSWEduChat

Effective use of AI

This term Callaghan College Waratah has been presented with an exciting opportunity that has the potential to shape the way students and teachers use technology in learning.

You may be aware of a range of emerging technologies referred to as artificial intelligence (AI). One kind of AI is generative AI (GenAI). Examples of GenAI you may have heard of or used include ChatGPT, Bing and Bard.

The NSW Department of Education prioritises student safety as a key focus. For this reason, the department has created NSWEduChat, a customised GenAI app. Unlike ChatGPT, NSWEduChat is suitable for school aged children. NSWEduChat is built inside the department's firewall and has been created with safeguards that other GenAI apps do not have.

At Callaghan College Waratah, we are committed to providing evidence-based, quality learning opportunities for our students. We are one of only 16 schools to be selected to first explore how NSWEduChat can be used effectively in classrooms. NSWEduChat is hosted entirely within the department's systems.

The app will provide a safe and secure environment for teachers and students (Stages 3-6) to use GenAI in teaching and learning. The app has been built with safeguards to protect students from inappropriate content.

The trial will run during Term 1 and Term 2 of 2024. To assess the impact of using NSWEduChat, students can provide feedback on the app if they choose to do so.

Department personnel may visit the school to gather feedback and photograph or video participants. Only students whose parents/carers have provided 'permission to publish' will be filmed.

At all times the current school rules, policies and procedures will apply for everyone involved. Parents/carers will be sent a data privacy notice to read. If a parent/carer decides to have their child opt out of the NSWEduChat trial, this can be communicated to the school.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity in relation to your child's learning or broader school experience, please contact our school.

We look forward to bringing you updates as we explore NSWEduChat to discover how GenAI could enrich teaching and learning at Callaghan College Waratah.



SPORT NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Swim team making waves!

Our Campus Swim team excelled at the 2024 College Swimming Carnival with Franki (Year 8), Toby (Year 7) and Travis (Year 7) all taking out Age Champion in their respective age groups. We wish the entire College team good luck at the Zone carnival later this term.

Our campus aquatics carnival will take place in term 4 this year. The focus of this event is participation and fun and we encourage all our students to get involved.

Other representative sport opportunities for this term will be announced in Daily Notices. Parents and students can access Daily Notices via Sentral (Sentral Students or Sentral Parent Portal). We encourage students to read these notices each day so you don't miss out on opportunities to represent the school. Our Sport Coordinator Miss Bradley will also announce upcoming opportunities during the Sports Report at Wednesday assemblies.

Finally, weekly sport selections for term 2 will open in a few weeks. Miss Bradley will send an email to both students and families outlining the options and selection instructions. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

CALLAGHAN P&C

New members welcome!

The Callaghan P&C are excited to welcome you to a new year and a new opportunity to connect and advocate for our students and the wonderful staff who support them every day. The first P&C meeting for the year will take place on **Monday, 26 February at 5:30pm - 6:30pm in the Wallsend Campus' library.**

You can expect a relaxed and friendly atmosphere at our meetings, along with some delicious snacks. The values of inclusiveness, kindness, and acceptance guide our discussions and activities. The College Principal and, where possible, the Campus Principals, attend our meetings to keep us informed about what's happening at each campus and to address any questions or concerns.

Our meetings are held once a term to learn about school achievements and programs, discuss opportunities, and provide feedback to the College in a safe and open forum. We welcome all parents and carers of Callaghan College students to join us.

For more details, please refer to the complete letter from the 2024 P&C President Lee Illfield (emailed to families on 21st February 2024).



YEAR 7 WELCOME

An information night for Year 7 families

Callaghan Waratah Campus is delighted to invite Year 7 parents and carers to a welcome and information evening on **Tuesday 12th March from 5:15pm to 5:55pm in the school hall.**

The agenda for the evening includes an introduction to our middle school curriculum and the various support structures we have in place to assist your child's transition from primary to secondary schooling. There will also be a segment on technology aimed to help you understand the digital tools your child will be using and how you can support them in their online learning journey.

Information will be sent out to our Year 7 families shortly with further details.



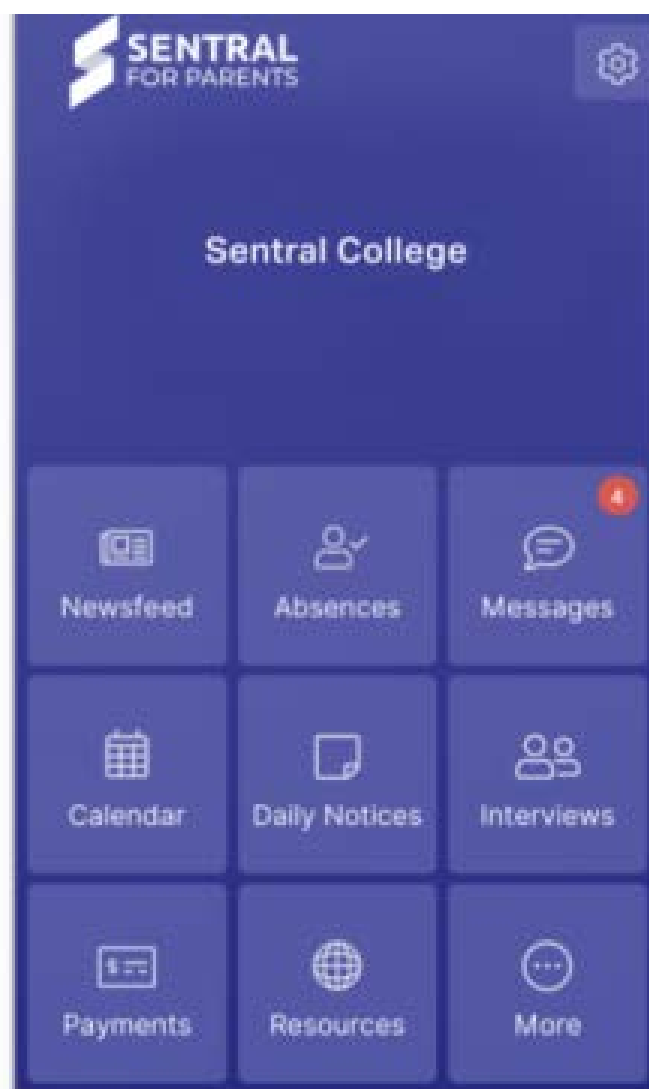
SENTRAL PARENT PORTAL

Accessing timetables, attendance information and school reports

The Sentral Parent Portal is a secure online platform that provides parents and carers with access to their child's timetable, attendance information, school reports and daily messages from teachers to students. The platform is also used to book times for Parent Teacher evenings.

For families that are not already connected to the Sentral Parent Portal, gain access by following the below steps -

1. Go to the Callaghan College Waratah Campus [website](#).
2. Scroll down on the homepage and click on the blue Sentral Parent Portal link under 'Parent Access'.
3. Enter the preferred contact email address you provided the school as your username.
4. If you don't already have a password, click forgot password and reenter your email address. You will be sent an email to reset or create your new Sentral Parent Portal password.
5. Return to Student/Parent Portal [login](#) and enter your new Sentral Parent Portal password.
6. Once in the portal you will need to enter a family key. This also links you to your child/ren in our online learning platform Canvas. Family keys have been issued via email.



KEY CONTACTS

Communicating with our school

This year we welcomed over 200 students Year 7 students to Callaghan Waratah Campus. Our students are settling in well, have adjusted to new routines and have had many of their questions answered.

In supporting each student across all our years, we encourage families to communicate with our school, whether that be for learning, wellbeing or careers guidance or for general administration questions or procedures.

The key contacts listed opposite are recommended as your first contact point for any questions or issues. These contacts will follow through with any further action that may be required.

ADMINISTRATION CONTACTS

Phone: 02 4952 3922

Email: waratah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

LEARNING KEY CONTACT

For any conversations around learning, contact your class teachers.

WELLBEING CONTACT

For any conversations around wellbeing, contact your year advisors.

CAREERS KEY CONTACT

For any conversations around careers, contact Mr Ross Mayall.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every day counts

A day away from school here or there doesn't seem like much however, absences do add up.

Missing as little as 1 day per fortnight can equate to missing 4 weeks of school per year. Turning up late or skipping classes also means you'll miss out on important learning opportunities.

What you learn in each class, on each day, builds on what you learnt the class before. Make school attendance a priority, along with getting to school on time.

If students arrive after the morning bell, they are to go straight to the Admin Office to sign in. A late note will be issued and students are to take this with them to class.

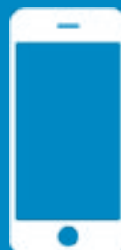
If students need to leave early for an appointment, a note is required from parents stating the reason and the date and time for early dismissal. Parents can also phone to school to confirm details. Students will be issued with an early leavers pass once details are received and confirmed.

If a student misses school due to illness, family circumstances or religious reasons, parents/carers are required to explain the absence.

EXPLAINING ABSENCES

All student absences must be explained.

Parents/carers can do this in one of three ways:



CALL OR TEXT

Call our Admin Office or reply to the text you receive from the school



EMAIL OR NOTE

Email our Admin Office or provide a written note.



SENTRAL PARENT PORTAL

Login to the Sentral Parent Portal to record absence details.

YONDR

Keeping phones off and away

The Yondr program was implemented by Callaghan Waratah to support the NSW Government's ban on mobile phones in NSW high schools.

All students have their own Yondr pouch. This pouch remains the property of the school however, students are responsible for its care.

Pouches should be locked for the duration of the school day.

By removing the distraction of mobile phones, a supportive environment is created for students to immerse themselves more fully in learning and be more present in their interactions with teachers and peers.

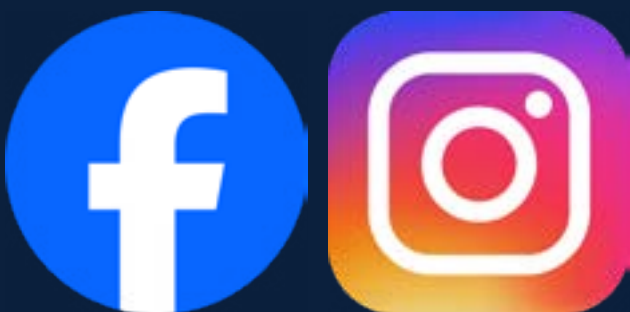


OUR SOCIALS

A great way of keeping up-to-date with the activities, celebrations and achievements of Waratah Campus is to follow us on our social media pages.

Both Facebook and Instagram celebrates our campus and students, along with providing general information on school events and important dates.

We encourage families to join us on our social media journey, become familiar with our campus and support our students in their learning and achievements.



TRANSPORT UPDATE

Buses will replace trains between Newcastle and Wyong on the Central Coast and Newcastle line from 1.20pm Friday, through the weekend and on Monday 26th February. Buses will not run to train timetabled times.

Students travelling to or from school on this line during this time period will be affected.

Families are encouraged to review affected students' travel plans and refer to the transport.info website for more details.

If any families still require Opal cards for their students, go to - transportnsw.info/school-travel-apply or phone 131 500.

Students are reminded to uphold the highest standards of behaviour as a representative of Callaghan College and obey road and public transports rules.

DIARY DATES

FEB

22

School photos

FEB

29

School photo catch up day

MAR

7

Welcome and information evening for newly arrived EALD students and families

MAR

12

Welcome and information evening for Year 7 parents and carers

MAR

25-27

Year 7 Camp
Great Aussie Bush Camp

MAR

29

Year 7 Student-led Conferences

