Newsletter Week 9 Term 1 2024

Principal's Report



Dear Parents & Carers,

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our parent teacher interviews were conducted on the 12th of March. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers engaged in meaningful conversations with our teachers, about student learning. To further support your child's learning, our semester 1 Assessment Calendars can be found on our school website <u>here</u>. These calendars are designed to complement the Unit Outlines and Google Guardian Summaries. They provide a one-page summary of all assessment items in terms 1 and 2, for all students. Feedback from families suggests they are best used when placed somewhere visible in your home, where they can inform a regular conversation between parents/carers and your children. I encourage you to sit down with your child and take a look.



Another easy way to support your child's learning is through a regular review of their Google Classrooms. This is a further step beyond receiving Google Guardian Summaries, which I also mentioned in the previous newsletter. I encourage you to sit down with your child and have them log into their Google Classroom home page with you. There you will find a "**To Do**" option. If you click on the **To Do** button, you are then able to view all of the classwork that has either been "**Assigned**" is "**Missing**" or is "**Done**." I hope these simple Google Classroom features, will help guide a conversation with your child about how to do their best in all of their classwork. As always, if you have any questions about your child's classwork, I encourage you to reach out to their teacher via email to discuss.

Assigned Missing Done

As we approach the end of Term 1, we also close the book on NAPLAN for another year. NAPLAN took place in weeks 7 & 8 this term, assessing against agreed national standards in literacy and numeracy from Year 3 to Year 9. We are all very aware of the limitations of NAPLAN, but it still has a role to play in providing parents and the school, information on student progress. At the school level, NAPLAN is one measure that we use to determine the effectiveness of our programs. We compare information from NAPLAN with classroom assessments, PAT (Progressive Attainment Test) results and other data, to make sure that we are doing everything we can to meet the individual needs of our students. I'd like to congratulate all students who took part in NAPLAN, for the manner in which they did so, and thank all other members of our community for providing a calm environment in which all students could do their best.

March the 8th this year was International Women's Day. The theme this year was Inspire Inclusion. With our Girls Group camp down the coast from the 6th – 8th of March, we chose to delay our celebrations a week, and on the 13th of March we held an International Women's Day Pancake Breakfast. Students and staff were encouraged to invite an inspiring woman in their life, to join us for breakfast. It was great to see mums, grandmas, aunties, sisters, sports coaches and other important women all come together for this amazing celebration. We were also lucky enough to be joined by the ACT Minister for Education and the Minister for Women, Yvette Berry. A big thank you to the amazing team of UCHSK staff who contributed to the organisation of the breakfast, in particular Amelia Whymark and Wendy Chen, who are also leading our Girls Group program.



As outlined in correspondence from the school on the 22/3, I will be finishing my nearly eight and a half years at UCHSK, at the end of this term. I have loved working for and with this amazing

community, first as deputy principal and then principal. I would like to thank all UCHSK community members for their support throughout this period, it has been an amazing journey to be a part of. I would particularly like to thank the amazing team of staff here at UCHSK, who care so much about our students, and for this reason, have created such an amazing school culture to be a part of. I am very excited about the next stage of my education journey, as the inaugural principal of the new North Gungahlin high school, however my time at UCHSK will always be particularly special to me.

Thanks again and kind regards,

Daniel Mowbray

Principal

What's Happening at UC High School

PBL Update

UCHSK's 2024 Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) goals got off to a great start when the term one target was smashed.

Positive Behaviour for Learning, is an evidence-based, multi-tiered behavioural framework that supports positive outcomes for all students in their social, emotional, and academic development (ACT Government, 2024). Students at UCHSK are recognised with a KARE card when they show Kindness, Achievement, Respect and Endeavour. Recipients of a KARE card go in the fortnightly draw to win a canteen voucher. However, the whole student cohort has also been working towards a goal of 1500 PBL KARE card recognitions for the term. The PBL team, led by Mr Trevor Horrell, were happy to hand out Chupa Chups to the whole student body at our last assembly when it was announced that there were not 1500, but 4185 PBL recognitions!

To help keep focus on the goal, throughout the term students have been reminded that:

- We are respectful in our communications
- We listen to instructions
- We follow and act upon instructions from UCHSK staff

We will finish the term by being mindful that:

• We respect and care for school property

Stay tuned for our term two goal and what the next reward will be for our students who are safe, respectful and engaged learners.



Swimming Carnival

Age Champions

12G Georgina Cullen

12B Lincoln McKeahnie

13G Skyla Wells

13B Finn Jones

14G Adele Evans AND Tilly Primmer (joint winners)

14B Luka Kirpson-Colley

- 15G Olivia Cullen
- 15B Arlo Herd
- 16G Chantel White

16B Bayden Wells

AWD Mieah RUMMERY

AWD Bridget LE MAITRE

Now to the winning house - and it is my pleasure as a proud member of Goolagong that we are the winners of the UCHSK Swimming Carnival:

Goolagong - 693

Bradman - 691

Freeman - 509

Meninga - 416

Interschool sport

North region touch football

The 7/8 girls touch football team (self-named the Kaleen Mudcrabs) had a great day out at the North Region Touch Football Gala Day. The girls went undefeated in the round games defeating Campbell (7-0), Amaroo (3-1), Emmaus (7-0) and Belconnen (2-0). They finished tied on top of the ladder with Merici and qualified for finals second on tries for. Their total for and against for the round games was 19 tries for and 1 against! They fell to a quality Canberra high team with multiple ACT representatives in the semifinal (4-0). A special mention to Selena Tuckwell who scored 7 tries on the day. Well done girls on great sportsmanship and skill.



In an exhilarating display of talent and determination, the 9-10 boys' touch football team delivered a remarkable performance. Their journey began with a dazzling victory against Lyneham High. Despite the loss in their second game of the day against Belconnen High the boys were determined to make semifinals. It was in the final round that the team truly shone, delivering a masterclass performance against SFX. With precision passes, strategic plays, and unwavering teamwork, they dominated the field, securing an impressive 7-1 victory and solidifying their spot in the finals. Despite facing fatigue and dwindling numbers, the boys approached the semifinals against Belconnen High with unwavering determination. Led by the relentless efforts of players like Deklin, they gave their all until the final whistle. Unfortunately, victory eluded them on this occasion, as Belconnen High emerged triumphant. Despite the outcome, the boys held their heads high, knowing they had left everything on the field. Their valiant efforts earned them a well-deserved third-place finish, capping off what can only be described as a phenomenal day of sportsmanship and skill. As the dust settles on this exhilarating tournament, one thing is clear: the year 9-10 boys' team has showcased their athletic prowess and their indomitable spirit, proving themselves as formidable contenders on the field.

Beach volleyball mixed 4's day

Wednesday week 6 saw 6 teams attend the beach volleyball mixed 4's day, where all had a great day. Teams had 4 matches battling the heat and dust of the sand with two teams finishing top of their pools, one 7/8 team, and a 9/10 team making the finals.

Unfortunately, they were defeated in the semifinals but both teams regained their composure to go on and win third place.

I was super proud of how everyone performed on the day - some great displays of sportspersonship and comradery when the opposition teams lacked it.







Upcoming Sports

-ACT Futsal titles - 7/8s on Tuesday week 9, 9/10s on Wednesday week 10

-Combined regional swimming - Tuesday week 11 - those that finished top three and are interested in competing and haven't already seen me, please see Mr. Passier in the PE staffroom.

-School Sport ACT rep sides trials have started, if you are interested in training for these sides, please visit the 2024 school sport and carnival Google classroom for more information on dates and how to register.

Current sports to register for and trials may have begun:

Australian Football (15&U Boys Team)

Australian Football (15&U Girls Team)

Basketball (16&U Boys team)

Softball (18&U Girls and 18&U Boys teams)

Golf (18&U Boys & Girls team)

For more information and to register please visit <u>https://schoolsportact.org.au/</u> select the sports dropdown tab and select the individual sport.

We would love to hear from you if you know of any amazing students at UCHSK who are making representative sides (ACT and above). Please email Ben Williams or Travis Passier in PE so that we can celebrate your child's achievements and give them the recognition for all their hard work.

House Challenge

We are really ramping up the excitement around our Houses with some new challenges! In our assembly, we had a bottle flipping challenge. The atmosphere in the gym was electric! More challenges are happening during lunch breaks with 4-way volleyball, and other things planned. We also have the Running Festival coming up in week 1 of next term, which is another opportunity to support and get engaged with your House.

NRL Voice Against Violence Program

Our Year 10 students are participating in this program aimed at reinforcing positive and respectful attitudes and behaviours towards women. There was very high engagement and some key take-home messages about role-modelling and being positive upstanders. "The culture is in your hands" is what Alan Tongue repeatedly told students, encouraging them to deliberately create the culture they want to experience.



Teaching and Learning

NAPLAN Wrap

Year 7 and Year 9 students at UCHSK participated in NAPLAN testing during weeks 7 and 8. NAPLAN takes place in all schools across Australia and results are used to refine our practise so that we can

better address student learning needs. Catch up sessions will finish on Monday for students who were absent on testing days.

The online platform worked well and students across the school cooperated throughout the process as many classes needed to be relocated so that Year 7 and 9 students could use the same rooms for all testing.

Thanks to all staff for supervision of testing sessions and moving classes to accommodate the testing, parents for encouraging students and ensuring that students came to school with charged Chromebooks and headphones. Special thanks to Carol Ellis for co-coordinating and showing me the ropes.

Gary Rolfe

2024 UCHSK NAPLAN Coordinator

Textiles News

Textiles

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to a member of the public who has donated a large amount of fabric to our school. Donations like this are so very much appreciated.

Yr 8 Textiles

Year 8 Textiles students are working hard on their first big machine-based project – a personalised tote bag. We've explored designing on fabric with both pastels and markers, and also experimented with the technique of applique, to create an image using shapes. Both of these skills are now featuring on our bags to make them unique.









Year 9/10 Textiles

The Year 9/10 class have been working in a sustainable way by repurposing t-shirts into soft toys. This meant finding their own pattern and t-shirts. We've worked out that sewing with stretchy fabric is challenging, especially when using small pieces!





SoSE News term 1 2024

Hasn't Term 1 rushed by! It has been a busy term in SOSE and we have really enjoyed getting to know our new classes and working with them on their Semester 1 history unit. We have also welcomed two new members to our team. Ms Pearl Harbour and Mr Finely Bock both join us after transferring from other ACT high schools. Ms Harbour and Mr Bock are both very excited to join us in the SOSE Faculty at UCHSK and they have both already become important members of the team.

Our year 10s were privileged to attend an incursion where they heard from a Holocaust survivor about her and her family's experiences during and after World War Two. Something that really stood out from this presentation was how many times the simple actions of other people who were willing to risk their own safety to help others were enough to change the course of people's lives. While studies of the Holocaust can be confronting, when we hear from those who were there, it presses home why it is so important to learn about this part of our collective history.

In Week 11, we will have another incursion for our Year 10 cohort, as well as one for our Year 9 students in early Term 2. These incursions both provide our students with dramatic performances that explore some of the subject matter from the curriculum. For Year 9, the performance is titled "Fightin' the Kaiser" and is focussed on the experiences of World War One soldiers. Year 10 will attend a performance of "Vietnam - Dusted Off," which explores the impact of the Vietnam War on

soldiers and their families. Both incursions allow us to explore history through an empathetic lens and help us answer the question, "What was it like for the people who experienced the things we are learning about?"

Our CAT tests are now all done and dusted and we have moved onto our research assignments. Parents should have all received emails about their child's task, which will be due in Week 10 this term (and week 11 for Year 7). We encourage parents to check in with their children to see how they are tracking with this task and to let their classroom teachers know if they need any extra support with their work.

English News

Recently, all English classes have had some form of disruption, as our regular classrooms have been used as testing rooms for NAPLAN. This has meant that sometimes, English classes have taken place in the library or in different areas of the school, and for Year 7 and Year 9 classes, they may have missed a regular English class in order to complete a NAPLAN assessment. Our staff have made a huge effort to communicate these interruptions to their classes ahead of time, and we appreciate the flexibility of all involved. This flexibility extends also to situations when a teacher has been unwell, and the class has worked with different staff members as we endeavour to ensure learning continues. Here is a quick snapshot of what has been happening in your child's mainstream English classes, or what events and assessments we have coming up in the remainder of the term.

Year 7

All classes have now finished their shoebox presentations in classes. These have been a great way for all involved to strengthen their high school relationships and get to know new people in the class. Year 7 are now spending the next few weeks recapping and extending upon the mechanics of writing – specifically the nitty gritty rules around punctuation, the reasons why sentences are structured the way they are, and the importance of purpose and audience.



Year 8

Year 8 classes are finalising their presentations for their myths and legends unit of work. We specifically focussed some lesson time after the rationale was due, in order to support students to understand what the difference is between a rationale and a spoken presentation. For some classes on Line 2, students worked with pre service teachers from the University of Canberra to further focus on speaking to groups and engaging an audience. UCHSK maintains a close relationship with the University of Canberra, and we are always impressed at how receptive our high school students are to working with new groups of beginning teachers.



Year 9

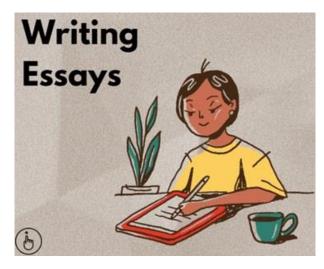
Year 9 classes have started working on their final assessment piece for our Life Stories unit of work. In this task, students will interview an adult that is important to them. Many students have said they plan to do this over the upcoming Easter long weekend. We encourage you to talk with your student about this assignment, as they may need some help from home in order to set up their 30 minute interview. The assignment itself is to use this interview as a basis to write their subject's life story. We look forward to receiving these assignments in Week 11 of this term. Further details can be found on the assignment post in their year 9 English Google classroom.



Year 10

Year 10 classes have now all finished reading their individual class novels, and are turning their attention to analysing their notes and preparing for an in class essay to take place under exam conditions. This assessment allows for students to bring with them a sheet of pre prepared notes, and we are supporting students to create this during regular lesson time. The essay students write will respond to one of three questions, and students have a choice of which question they respond to. They know the general theme of each question but will not know specifics until the exam

conditions begin. We are aiming to expose our Year 10 students to conditions they can reasonably expect in college and beyond, and to help them prepare and be successful in a wide range of situations. The in class essay will be completed in regular class time over week 10 and week 11.



Excursion opportunity – Term 2

In Week 7 of term 2, the Bell Shakespeare Company is performing their production of the classic comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream. UCHSK are planning to take a group of 40 students to this production, and we will first offer tickets to students in Year 9 and 10. The excursion cost will be approximately \$40, which includes transport to and from the theatre. Watch out for further information to be sent home early in Term 2.



Beyond News

Beyond is UCHSK's extension and enrichment program. Students in Beyond are students who have been identified as gifted and/or talented, or students who would significantly benefit from participation in extension and enrichment programs.

We are now in our second year of the Beyond program at UC High School Kaleen and I am very much looking forward to working with staff and students to continue to build upon the successes we enjoyed last year. This includes continuing to refine how we deliver extension options for students in class, identifying more opportunities for excursions and external activities, and inviting other teachers to participate in and lead Beyond seminars so that they may share their areas of expertise and passion.

One of the big tasks at the beginning of the school year is to identify students to participate in the program. Earlier this term, an email was sent out to parents of all Year 7 students, inviting them to nominate their child for Beyond. We also sought feedback from primary schools, students' current teachers, PAT tests and assessment results, using all of this information to identify year 7 students for participation in Beyond. In Week 8, we held an information evening for all of the students and parents who have been invited to participate in Beyond. It was fantastic to see so many faces there. Beyond is always on the lookout for more students to join the program, so if you are the parent of a

child from any year level, please contact Mr Conor Laenen at <u>Conor.Laenen@ed.act.edu.au</u> if you would like your child to be considered for participation in the program.

Enrichment activities that will be offered through Beyond this year (but are open to any interested students) include:

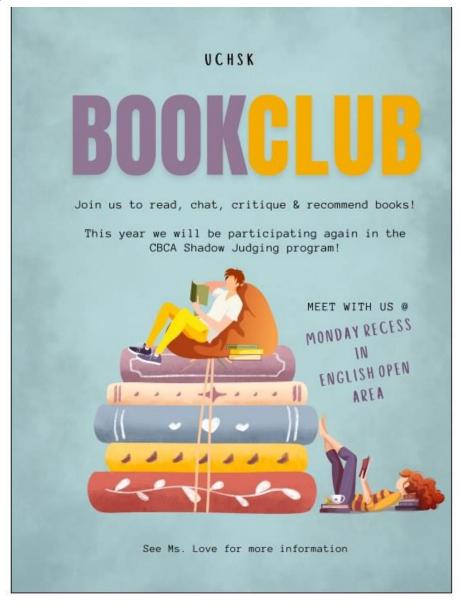
- Ancient Egypt museum excursion (24 May, Term 2)
- Tournament of Minds (Term 3)
- Legislative Assembly Committee Challenge (Term 3)
- Ethics Olympiad (Term 4)

We encourage any students who are interested in these enrichment opportunities to speak with the Beyond coordinator about these activities. Further information will come out as these events approach.

Further enrichment opportunities are also available through faculties and include competitions or longer-term challenges in most learning areas. Students are encouraged to speak with their classroom teachers about any enrichment opportunities that may be on offer through their subject.

Overall, we believe that this year has a lot on offer for any student who wishes to extend themselves beyond their regular classroom learning and we hope to see as many students as possible take up these opportunities.

Book Club



Writing Club



Career Hub News



As we navigate through this academic year, it's crucial to remind our Year 9 and 10 students and their families about the enriching opportunities that lie ahead, especially regarding career education and work experience (WEX)/Australian School based Apprenticeship (ASbA). Our school is committed to providing students with meaningful experiences that not only complement their academic journey but also prepare them for the future.

Work Experience for Year 10 Students

In alignment with our school's career education objectives, we are excited to announce that all Year 10 students are expected to complete their Work Experience (WEX) by the end of 2024. To ensure this experience is as impactful and minimally disruptive as possible, we encourage students to undertake their WEX during the last week of Term 2, from 1 July to 5 July 2024. This period has been specifically chosen to fit seamlessly into the academic calendar, allowing students to immerse themselves in a practical learning environment without missing out on crucial class time.

Dive into the World of ICT and Cyber Security with ASD!

The Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) is offering a unique Work Experience Program aimed at highachieving Year 10 students with a keen interest in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), cyber security, programming, and network engineering. This program is a golden opportunity to gain hands-on experience and insights from industry professionals.

Program dates range from April to October, with specific sessions dedicated to Cyber Security & Robotics and Navy Aviation. This is an open invitation to students from all over Australia, including interstate areas. For those interested in applying, visit <u>www.asd.gov.au/careers/im-starting-my-career</u> for more information and to submit your application.

Powerhouse Creative Studio: A Spark for Aspiring Engineers

For those interested in engineering and renewable energy, the Powerhouse Creative Studio at TAFE Wetherill Park presents a not-to-be-missed workshop. This 3-day event, happening from Wed 17 – Fri 19 April or Mon 22 – Wed 24 April, offers students the chance to design and build a lighting solution powered by renewable energy. It's a fantastic opportunity to meet and learn from engineers in the renewable energy sector. Secure your spot by registering <u>here</u>.

Stay Updated with UC Kaleen High School Career Website



For more details on these opportunities and to stay updated on future career-related events and information, make sure to visit the UC Kaleen High School Career Website at <u>https://uckaleencareers.com/</u>. This platform is your go-to resource for career education at our school.

Japan Trip News



You've heard and probably even used this phrase: So what do you want first? The good news or the bad news?

The Languages department has some good news and some bad news. I'm going to give you the bad news first, but stick around for the good news, too!

As you may be aware, the Japanese faculty has been planning a 2 week overseas excursion for the end of term 3 this year to Japan for students studying Japanese in Year 9 & 10. Logistical reasons have, however, led us to make the decision to postpone this trip. That's the bad news.

Now for the good news. The new date for the Japan Trip will be the end of term 1 next year, 2025. This means that this year's year 9s doing Japanese will still be able to go to Japan in year 10, and this year's year 8s will get to go to Japan a year earlier! And we haven't forgotten year 10s. Arrangements will be made for them.

This excursion will focus on developing students' language and cultural knowledge and will provide an exciting real-world opportunity to immerse themselves in everything Japanese. For this reason, the trip is only open to students continuing on with the two-year continuous Japanese elective course in year 9 & 10.

We will be hosting an information evening next term (date TBA). In the meantime, if you are interested in your child participating in the Japan Trip 2025, please complete this <u>Google Form</u> to indicate you and your child's interest. Indicating an interest in the excursion does not commit you to it.

If you have any questions about the Japan Trip, or the Year 9-10 Japanese elective program, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Laenen (Languages Executive Teacher) or your child's Japanese teacher (Mrs Emerson or Miss Melvin).

Need to Know

Information on Infectious Conditions

A friendly reminder of the infectious diseases and the exclusion periods and other measures which should be followed if a child contracts or comes into contact with a person who has one of the listed diseases (see link below). The ACT Public Health Regulations 2000 assigns to parents a responsibility to exclude their child from school and to notify the school if there are reasonable grounds for believing that their child has an infectious disease or been in contact with a person who has one of the diseases listed. Under the regulations schools must also notify the Chief Health Officer if a child enrolled at the school has a vaccine preventable disease. This allows the Chief Health Officer to take any public health action necessary to prevent the further spread of the disease.

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the school, or in the community, the Chief Health Officer may issue a health direction to the school to take any specified action to reduce the public health risk caused by the outbreak. If you have any questions in relation to these requirements, please ring the Communicable Disease Control Section, Health Directorate on (02) 6205 2155. For the list of diseases follow this <u>link</u>.

Family Contributions

Dear Parents and Carers,

Each year the Board of UC High School Kaleen requests Library Fund contributions from families to help support and enrich learning opportunities throughout our school.

2024 contributions to the Library Fund are now due.

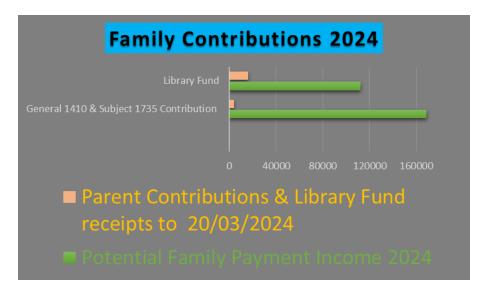
This contribution supports learning opportunities through the purchase of:

- Textbooks
- Fiction and Non-Fiction reading books.
- Research materials
- Library IT equipment and software

The requested Library contributions for 2024 are:

\$200 for the first child

\$100 for subsequent children



In the above Family Contributions Graph 2024

- The Green bars indicate the potential amount students would benefit from, if all families contributed.
- The orange bars indicate the amount the school has received in 2024 from General Contribution, Subject Contribution and Library Fund.

Requests for General & Subject Contributions will be emailed in Semester 2.

	Library Fund & Voluntary Contributions		2024 Learning Program Investment		
	\$60 000				
	\$50 000	Subject &	Playground enhancements (fitness equipment, shade options, additional		
	\$40 000		bubblers)		
	\$30 000	Genera	Necessary resourcing upgrades for new and existing elective classes (Music, School		
	\$20 000	Subject & General Contributions	Paper, REAL – Student Leadership, Robotics & Mechatronics)		
	\$10 000		Guest speakers and presentations enriching core curriculum (Tomorrow Man, Courage to Care, Troubie, Happy Families, NRL's Voice Against Violence)	Proposed Future Investment	
_	\$50 000	Library Trust Fund Contributions	Contribution to online subscriptions to support student learning (Mathspace, Stile		
	\$40 000		& Education Perfect)		
	\$30 000				
	\$20 000		Contribution to library refurbishment		
-	\$15 000			Investment to	
	\$10 000 \$5000		New textbooks, class novels & library media equipment	date	

Mobile Phones @ UCHSK in 2024

One of the biggest changes for the start of the 2024 school year has been the updates to the mobile phone policy. The core message remains, that wherever possible "Students are strongly encouraged"

to keep their phones and other personal devices away from school." There are some instances where this is not possible. All students should now have received their phone pouch. If your child does bring a phone to school, **the expectation is that it is turned off and locked in their pouch from the moment they enter school in the morning.** If your child does need to bring a phone to school, please remind them of the expectation of pouch use. We'd like to thank all families who have been supporting the school and discussing these changes with their children. Classrooms and the playground have both been phone free and this is a great result for our community.



Advertising

Touch Football ACT Junior Winter Competition

A community notification:

Nominations are now open for the Touch Football ACT 2024 Junior Winter Competition.

Please feel free to distribute through your networks.

Teams can be nominated via:

https://profile.mysideline.com.au/register/compsearch - 2024 Jnr Winter

The competition details are as follows:

- Commencement: Thursday 2nd May 2024
- Location: Deakin, ACT
- Duration: 6 competition rounds, plus Grand Final (Top two on ladder to progress)

Divisions: Secondary School Ages

- Year 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12 Girls
- Year 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12 Mixed

Nomination Fee: \$500.00 per team.

Telephone Counselling



AASC Easter Holiday Cricket Camps



Budding Entertainment



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

9AM-4PM TUE 16 APRIL HARRY POTTER DRAMA

WED 17 & THURS 18 APRIL MUSICAL THEATRE CAMP



Term 2 Production Enrolling Now LITTLE WOMEN by Louisa May Alcott



PERFORM ON STAGE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL PLAY! EVERY PERFORMER RECEIVES A SPEAKING ROLE. BEGINNERS WELCOME. CLASSES RUN SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN ACTON.

www.buddingentertainment.com

Contact Us

UC High School Kaleen

104 Baldwin Drive

Kaleen 2617

61420490

www.kaleenhs.act.edu.au

UCHSKaleen.infomation@ed.act.edu.au