



the ponds high
Gazette
issue eight

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Science Showcase 2024



On Thursday, **19 September 2024**, the Science faculty hosted the much-anticipated annual Science Showcase, and it was nothing short of amazing! Open to the entire school community, this year's event highlighted the incredible talent, creativity, and scientific curiosity of our students, proving that science can be both **fun** and **inspiring**.



The showcase featured a variety of **jaw-dropping** exhibits, from predicting future trends through data analysis to exploring how tectonic plates shift beneath our feet. Students also impressed us with their understanding of biomechanics, presenting advanced methods for treating sports injuries. Classrooms were transformed into interactive science zones, filled with meticulously crafted 3D models and live experiments that brought these concepts to life.



Of course, it wouldn't be a showcase without some healthy competition! Huge congrats to the **winning teams**, Nedal Hamaid, Pratham Singh, and Anvi K, Nivedha P, Nidhi N, Jiya P, Rashee K who stole the spotlight with their standout projects. And also congrats to Anika Dharma, and Hashini Abeykoon for their spectacular posters! Their hard work and innovative ideas earned them top honours, showcasing both their scientific understanding and their ability to present complex ideas in a way that was engaging and accessible to all.

But this event wasn't just about projects and experiments. From start to finish, students took full ownership of the day, handling everything from planning to execution, demonstrating not only their scientific expertise but also their leadership and organisational skills. The Science Showcase stands as a testament to our school's commitment to fostering a culture of inquiry, innovation, and academic excellence.

All in all, it was a day full of epic experiments, collaboration, and hands-on learning, proving once again that science is more than just textbooks, it's an adventure!





Big Ideas

Blacktown Design Thinking!



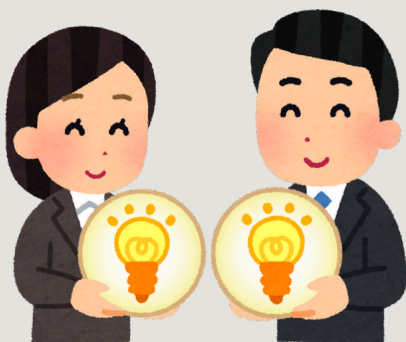
WHAT IS AN ENTREPRENEUR?

Google defines an entrepreneur as a person who sets up a business or takes on financial risks in the hope of profit. But by the Future Anything company, it means thinking as BIG as possible.

The Big Ideas Challenge is a fast-paced and hands-on day of listening, learning, and doing culminating in teams of students pitching their innovative solutions to a complex, local issue and was held in Blacktown on Wednesday the 16th of October where around fifty students from our own school recently attended.



→ Big Ideas challenge of 2022!!



Representing their school with passion and creativity, students formed six teams to tackle real-world challenges with innovative solutions. Out of these six, two teams advanced to the grand finals, showcasing their ideas against top entries from other schools. Remarkably, one team won the as the grand final winner, and won gift cards for their creative idea.

The inspiring event will soon visit our school to share more insights on innovative thinking. Interested students can sign up at the library to participate. You'll team up with friends to design solutions that could change the world, learn pro tips from local entrepreneurs, and master skills in problem-solving, pitching, and project management.

This year, the issue was on waterways in the area. As students scrambled to brainstorm ideas, the coordinators brought on professionals from Sydney Water to educate students on the complex workings of waterways in Blacktown. The guest speaker added to an already enlightening experience where many learned that being an entrepreneur wasn't just turning a profit on a business, but helping the wider community by solving problems.

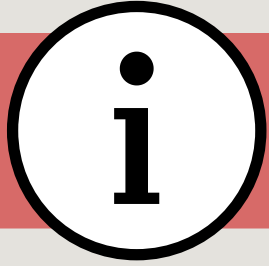
By allowing students to express themselves through the ideas that they can produce, Future Anything's Big Ideas program fostered a new sense of understanding for the students who aim to better the world around them through the vast array of techniques they taught us to encourage further thinking.

Now, due to the success of our students in the competition, Future Anything has brought the Big Ideas Challenge to you! Students from the Ponds High School will be able to participate in the Big Ideas Challenge now in a Shark-Tank-like experience in the comfort of our school during week 8 this term! We'd love to see you there to unleash your inner entrepreneur! A reflection from a student that attended the event- "The Big Ideas challenge gave us a platform to dream big and put our ideas into action. It taught me that even the wildest ideas can have an impact if you're willing to work hard and believe in them."



Day for Daniel

Annual personal awareness day



Day for Daniel is an annual event across Australia dedicated to teaching kids about personal safety, all in honour of Daniel Morcombe, a young boy whose story inspired a whole movement for child protection.

On **September 24th**, our social justice team organised the event at school, creating an amazing fundraiser to show our support. During recess and lunch, they sold red lolly bags and red spider drinks, giving everyone a fun way to get involved.

In addition to the fundraising, homegroup lessons were also organized to help students understand the significance of the day and the importance of **staying safe**.

Overall, it was an wonderful day that brought our students together, not only to enjoy some treats but to learn valuable lessons about **personal safety** and **looking out for each other**.

Day for Daniel

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM


TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER WK 10

RECESS AND LUNCH OUTSIDE THE GYM


PURCHASE:

\$1 - RED LOLLY BAGS


\$1 - RED SPIDER DRINKS



**RECOGNISE
REACT
REPORT**

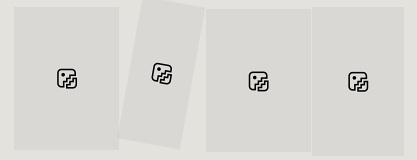


Keeping Kids Safe!





CLASSES of



HSC! Graduation! These are all times we've heard since the day we started school. It's crazy to think that all of a sudden after the ceremony of receiving your award in the gymnasium it all comes to an end. It's strange to think that the familiar routines, the morning rush, the sound of the 8.30 songs, and even those dreaded exams all become just **memories**. There's something uniquely bittersweet about the end of school; you're finally free from the assignments, the homework, the uniform, and yet, there's a small part of you that wishes you could stay a little longer.



Imagine going home on Wednesday after double English or a double sport and thinking, 'oh I should prepare for tomorrow' just to recall that there is no more school 'tomorrow'. The comfort of knowing what each day holds is replaced by the thrill—and fear—of the unknown.

Ponds has **taught** us more than just academic skills; it has shaped us as individuals within a diverse society, fostering strong communication skills and resilience. **Soon**, we'll be navigating adulthood, university, work, and responsibilities that feel far greater than anything we encountered in the classroom. From 'what high school are you going to' to 'where did you graduate from' the memories of school—the good, the bad, and the in-between—stay with us.

Graduation is the start of our **journey** into independence, a leap into our futures, with all the hope and uncertainty that comes with it. And while the future may be unknown, we can take comfort in knowing that our school years will always be a part of who we are, no matter where life takes us. It's a bittersweet feeling, but as every school year comes to an end it's a reminder you're always a year closer to new beginnings, so make the most of it and leave with no regrets :)





VALID

What is it? How does it work?

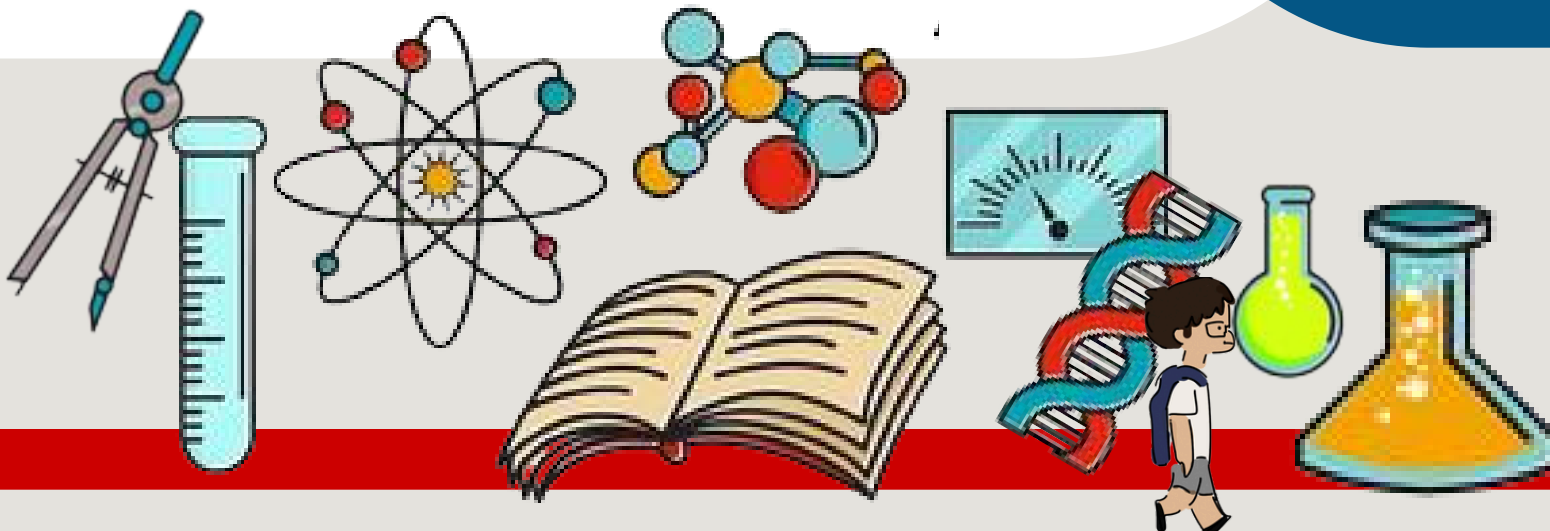
WHAT IS VALID?

The Validation of Assessment for Learning and Individual Development Science program provides online end-of-stage assessments to assist teachers in identifying individual strengths and weaknesses, allowing for a more tailored approach to the syllabus. The evaluation occurs in Years 6, 8, and 10, with compulsory participation for eighth graders in NSW government schools, while it remains optional for non-government institutions. The test is externally graded, marked by people outside the school, based on their year level. This program helps improve student results and check how well educational programs are working. It is connected to the science syllabus and looks at what students know and can do in science, as well as their attitude towards it.



DETAILS

The test lasts about 75 minutes and is conducted entirely on a computer in an interactive, multimedia format. VALID Science 8 includes multiple-choice questions, short response items, and extended response tasks that focus on real-world issues, including scientific investigations. The VALID assessment functions to produce data and statistics on the working knowledge of a student's aptitude for science. [The Ponds High School conducted the VALID assessment on Wednesday, the 30th of October periods 5-6.](#)





Activities

Graduation Themed!

Graduation Themed Find-A-Word

S	S	E	F	M	D	T	N	S	A	S	H	E	C
L	E	I	U	U	E	A	A	L	F	W	L	E	E
L	T	M	T	E	D	U	S	E	E	R	U	N	L
N	N	F	U	S	A	A	E	L	E	H	R	O	E
A	A	G	R	A	D	U	A	T	E	A	M	T	B
A	L	L	E	W	P	S	E	E	T	L	E	S	R
E	O	R	E	N	H	A	S	F	C	N	A	E	A
L	L	M	T	E	A	B	V	E	A	P	T	L	T
O	T	W	C	E	H	E	E	D	C	U	A	I	I
R	T	N	E	M	E	V	E	I	H	C	A	M	O
L	A	O	D	E	D	R	A	W	A	T	U	W	N
F	A	R	W	E	L	L	N	F	S	E	R	S	S
U	O	S	M	I	R	E	T	P	A	H	C	C	E
T	T	L	R	R	E	A	F	A	S	P	A	E	R

ACHIEVEMENT
SASH
GRADUATE
CHAPTER
AWARD
MILESTONE
FUTURE
SUCCESS
FARWELL
CELEBRATION

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7723868/>



SPOT THE PICTURE!

On each page, we've hidden an image for you to spot! Can you find all of them?

love, class of 2024

As we get older, it feels like life can throw many new challenges at you, especially when it comes to school and studying, but the most important thing I learned from year 12 is to have a healthy balance between studying and doing the things I enjoy like going out with friends. Make sure you take advantage of every opportunity you receive in school and outside of school, because stepping out of your comfort zone is a crucial part of growing as a person. A lot of the time things won't work out as you had hoped, but keep pushing yourself and know that at the end of school journey, you're gonna look back and realise your immense development and accomplishments.

- **Mariam Atta**

The HSC will seem like the biggest obstacle in your high school journey and to be blunt, it will be. However, you'll learn to savour the moments with your friends and teachers because before you know it, you won't see them every day of the week anymore. To the 2025 Year 12's, please be kind to your teachers as they are your rock this year, rely on them and always remember that you know your content so trust in yourself too. Don't take life too seriously you've only just started, create moments that you'll remember for the rest of your lives

- **Nikki Subagyo, EIC 2022-2023**

High school will be some of the best years of your life. As you progress through each year everything will seem less daunting and you will start to earn more freedom as you grow older. If I could give one piece of advice it would be to enjoy high school especially while you're still young and no matter how hard it may get there will always be light at the end of the tunnel.

For the new year 12's, as stressful as the HSC period may sound it is in fact a fun time. For me personally I avoided stressing altogether and went into every exam with a positive attitude. Eager to experience and enjoy the exam while learning from mistakes I make along the way. The HSC does not define your future, so don't worry if it doesn't work out. Good luck and wishing you all the best for your studies.

- **Ariana Wibberly, VEIC 2022-2023**

It's going to be an extremely challenging and overwhelming year. But even still it doesn't mean that you shouldn't work hard every step of the way! Even if you don't know what to do after school it's completely okay! You can take these last two years (if you're in year 10 rn) to think about what it is that you really love doing and even if you don't know at the end of year 12 it's not the end of the world. Take it from me, I didn't do the best during year 12 even though this is an important year because I didn't expect it to be this challenging and tiring. But I still managed to push through with all I had, and I know that you all can do this as well!

- **Sreya Sumesh**

There's no need to stress this much. Your HSC ain't the end of the world, and your ATAR will not even matter by the time you get out. Just make friends, have fun and if not just stress together. Also at this point stop arguing with each other about small stuff, you're almost out of high school, stop having drama with each other.

- **Lauren Loke**

It's ok not to know where you're going. It's ok to feel overwhelmed by everything. It's ok to make mistakes and stumble. Everything will work out by the end. Being overwhelmed means you're pushing yourself to be the best you can. Never forget to thank those supporting you, always. You got this!

- **Kathleen Dela Cruz**

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