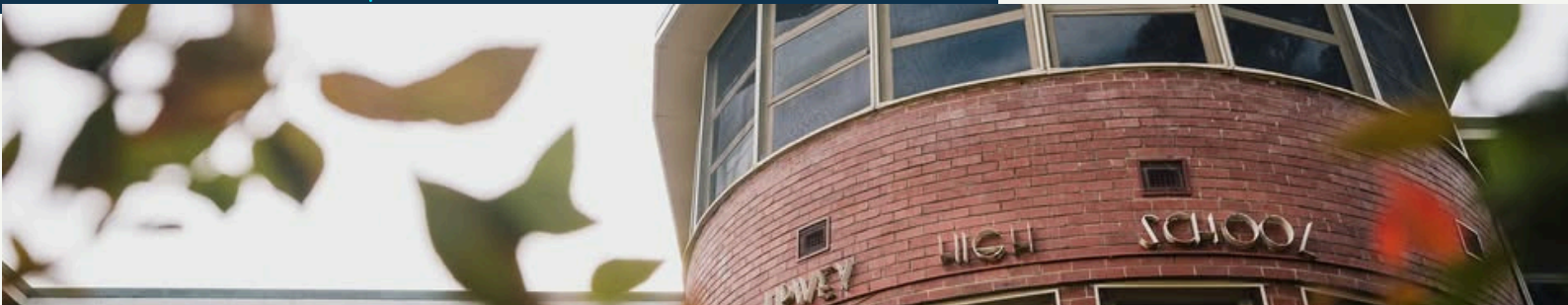


UPWEY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 3 | Term 2 | 2026



As I am writing this week's newsletter, I have been watching all of our Volleyball Program students entering the gymnasium for our annual Volleyball-a-thon. I am extremely proud of this program, as well as the many other incredible extra-curricular opportunities that our students are so lucky to have available to them. Many of these are often reported in my weekly newsletter. These wonderful opportunities are, however, just one important aspect of a child's schooling journey. Another important aspect is the academic opportunities afforded to students inside our classrooms - each and every day - that help students learn and grow in skills, confidence and knowledge. I have written, in previous newsletters about the introduction of the Victorian Teaching & Learning Model 2.0 (VTLM 2.0) and the ways in which our staff have built their knowledge around *how students learn best*. This term, we are driving our focus on renewing our UHS Instructional Model so that every student has the same learning experience regardless of subject or teacher. We have begun reviewing what is already happening for students in our classrooms - the ways teachers focus the learning, the ways teachers are explicitly teaching, how we are asking students to practice what they learn and how we are monitoring their learning. The aim of the new model will be to ensure teachers are aligning their teaching practice with the VTLM 2.0 and that all students, no matter where they are on their learning journey, have an equitable learning experience that will help them achieve success. Once our model is finalised, I will be sharing this with our entire school community - stay tuned!

We are incredibly lucky at UHS to have two wellbeing animals who regularly support the mental health and wellbeing of our students - and our staff. Neve is our wonderful therapy dog, who enjoys nothing more than visiting classrooms, watching students learn and her favourite thing - providing therapeutic support for students. Stella is our most recent addition to the wellbeing team and visits with Mrs Lynch every Friday. So far she has been excelling at providing patting opportunities for staff throughout the day, and most recently has been introducing herself to many students in Mrs. Lynch's office. Two fantastic members of staff doing some great work for our community.



Have a lovely weekend everyone - and Happy Mother's Day to all of the wonderful mums in our community

Rachel Lynch, Principal



TERM 2 - WEEK 4

Monday May 11

Tuesday May 12

Year 12 VM (WRS) excursion
Year 11 Pat Cronin Presentation
Year 7/8 Inter-School Sport (AFL)
Inter-School Boys Netball
Production Rehearsals

Wednesday May 13

Big Day in Concert (lunch time)

Thursday May 14

Year 9/10 Inter-School Sport

Friday May 15

Project Rokit Workshops
Year 9 NZ Tour Trivia Night 7pm

Respectful Relationships at USH through ASPIRE: Parent Information Session

On Monday 27th April we had our whole school wellbeing parent session. This presentation outlined Upwey High whole school's approach to wellbeing through the Aspire Program. The presentation from our amazing wellbeing team of Yvette Sangster and Amy Lockie provided information about our new 'Aspire Program' which runs once a week for all students in Year 7-12, as well as information about our external presentations including REACH and Project Rockit, which are presented in Aspire. There was also a presentation from the Respectful Relationships team; Maddy Stevens and Katie Carson, outlining this important Department program that is being presented through Aspire and our Health curriculum. The event was well attended and there was a lot of positive feedback from attendees.

Please find the link to the recording: <https://clickv.ie/w/bgHC>

If you wish to find out more about Respectful Relationships, you can go to:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/respectful-relationships>

If you wish to find out more about The Resilience Project, you can go to:

<https://theresilienceproject.com.au/>



If you do have any questions please email myself or the Wellbeing Team

Matt Lucas - Acting Assistant Principal & Middle Years Leader

Year 11 Environmental Science visit to Melbourne Aquarium



Last Thursday, the Year 11 Environmental Science class went to the Melbourne Aquarium to learn about how ecosystems are affected by short- and medium-term changes to the environment. The students learnt about different aquatic ecosystems such as rocky shores, warm marine, freshwater and sub-Antarctic environments and how different events such as storms, fires and climate change are impacting their populations and what the Aquarium is helping to preserve different species. The students learnt about the particular habits of different species and how the Marine Biologists work with the animals including training the Octopus to get into a bucket to be moved, and how some of the penguins follow the team around when they are setting up the nesting sites to collect the rocks. We learnt about how the animals work together to feed and clean the aquariums and can communicate with subtle movements and signals to indicate to the other fish what they needed. Our Year 11 Environmental Science class asked great questions and answered some very difficult and challenging questions about the impacts of short- and long-term changes can have on the marine life, and overall had a great day.

Year 12 Business Management students visit the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie

The Year 12 Business Management students participated in an excursion to the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie to support their studies of Area of Study 3: Operations.

During the visit, students heard from a managing director about the ways in which the business operates as both a manufacturing and service-based enterprise. They were provided with practical, real-world examples relating to key operational concepts including inputs, processes and outputs, forecasting, the use of technology, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and waste minimisation strategies.

Students also had the opportunity to apply their learning by creating their own chocolate products. To conclude the experience, they enjoyed sampling ten different varieties of chocolate, along with a range of ice cream flavours. Studying Business Management has its perks!



Senior Inter-School Sport

On Tuesday we had Senior Sport, with teams competing in Badminton, Soccer and Netball, proudly representing Upwey.

Our Year 12 girls' badminton team played exceptionally well, finishing the day as overall runners up – a fantastic result!

The Year 12 boys' soccer team made it through to the finals against Rowville East. It was 0-0 at half time in a tight match, but the boys finished as runners up, going down 0-4. A great effort to reach the final.

Our netball girls showed incredible resilience, competing all day with just six players. Their skill, teamwork and sportsmanship were outstanding, finishing with three wins and three losses.

Well done to all our senior athletes on a great day of competition!



Sydney

ART TOUR 2026



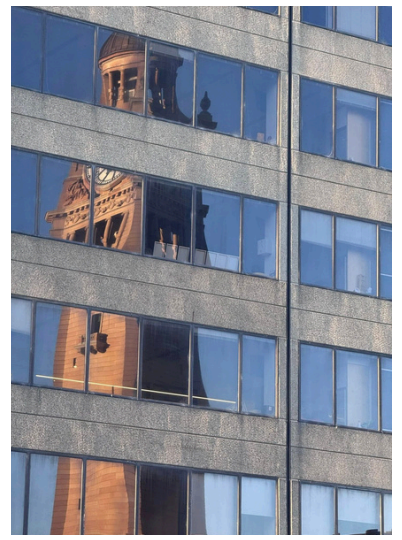
Twenty of the VCE Visual Communication and Art Creative Practice students went to Sydney on the VCD & Art Sydney Tour, chaperoned by Mr. Barker, Ms. Garrett and Grant Nichol. We were gone for 4 nights and 5 days during the school holidays, flying up on the 10th of April and coming home on the 14th of April.

Whilst in Sydney we visited multiple art galleries that included highly fascinating and educational tours; as well as walking around and exploring the rich history of the city. A popular highlight was the Chau Chuk Wing museum located at The University of Sydney, where we got to view multiple exhibits, including a series called "Infinite Scroll" made by contemporary social-media and digital focused Chinese artists, including the likes of Gao Hung. At the same museum we saw a series of taxidermized and fossilized strange creatures in the natural history section.

At the National Gallery of NSW, we did a tour explaining the first nations significance and cultural significance behind several major artworks. Another fun experience at this two-building gallery was visiting the tank room and viewing the current exhibit, titled "Leave The keys Under the Doormat". At the museum of contemporary art we split into 2 groups of 10 and went on separate tours of the gallery focusing on different things. One group explored stories of dreamtime from local first nations communities that had been animated using reference paintings and artificial intelligence. The other group went on a guided tour, looking at several major artworks and installations in the gallery. A standout artwork for my group was watching the film "Drama 1882" by artist Wael Shawky. Shawky's film is a 45-minute opera spoken entirely in traditional Arabic that explores the Urabi revolt that took place in Egypt from 1879-1882. Throughout the gallery tour we also completed illustrations of safe places, scenes taking place within these safe places, focusing on the art elements and principles like line, tone and shape and balance.

The day after that, we had a private tour of the Sydney Opera House. The Opera House is truly a master piece, our tour guide explained the expansive lore behind the architects chosen to design the opera house; we learnt of fascinating details about the protests surrounding Jorn Utzon's removal from designing the Opera House.; as well as taking us through each theatre space and explaining their functions in great detail.

The tour to Sydney included several lessons led by Mr. Barker. A standout lesson for myself was the one on reflection. In the reflection lesson, we were tasked with noticing the reflections in our surroundings, this included water, buildings and surfaces and then composing photographic images. We also undertook a drawing class where we drew the Opera House having Mr Barker teaching how to measure and proportion our drawings of landscapes in an accurate way, I for one found the lesson greatly helpful . I came away from that lesson with a drawing of the opera house that I am quite happy with.



We also visited the graphic artist Max Mendez, at his shop "Squidinki", Max Mendez was kind enough to show us his sketchbook, explaining his process of drawing and even gave us some kind words of advice and encouragement. Another exhibition seen was that of the street artist Banksy – Limitless, one that later we were all presented a memento gift from.

A massive, massive highlight of the tour was being able to visit the Biennale exhibitions all throughout Sydney. The biennale exhibits hosts 83 artists from 37 separate countries. This year, the biennale theme was ReMemory, we saw the Biennale Exhibitions at the White Bay Power Station, Chau Chuk Wing Museum and the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Whilst we got to experience bountiful amounts of art, we also got a lot of time to experience Sydney itself and explore many wonderful areas of the city on the light-rail, including Circular Quay, The Rocks and of course the Bridge. We went out for dinner each night, visiting restaurants of Chinese, Indonesian, Mexican and Italian. As part of the lead up it was us students that picked the dinner venues for each night.

I can confidently say that everyone had a great time; exploring Sydney's bursting art and architecture scene whilst also having the freedom to socialise and relax when needed. Each day and night in Sydney was truly an adventure and I am so grateful I got to experience the galleries, education, restaurants and friendships with new people.

Thank you so much to Mr. Barker, Ms. Garrett and Grant for overseeing such a magical and educational experience for all of us.

Siobhan SHANAHAN
Yr12 Arts Captain



BELGRAVE & HILLS
ANTIQUE
& COLLECTABLES FAIR

Sunday 17 May
9:00am – 3:00pm

UPWEY HIGH SCHOOL
A fantastic new complex in the Hills

ENTRY

Adults: \$5
Kids (Up to 18): FREE

VALUATIONS AVAILABLE

\$5 per item
(Excludes Stamps & Jewellery)

David Freeman Valuations
Amanda Addams Auctions
11am – 2pm

VALUATIONS OF COINS

for a gold coin donation
to the CFA
by S & A Coins



For all enquiries call 0419 004 125

Proudly Presented by

Rotary
Club of Belgrave



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Community Bank
Upwey & District
Bendigo Bank

UHS Classroom Routines



Before Lesson

Line up outside the classroom on time, entering calmly when directed to by staff

Be prepared for learning - have all equipment (including a charged laptop)

During Lesson

Wait for formal greeting and roll call / entry activity

Actively participate to the best of your ability in all learning activities

End of Lesson

Take note of homework or activities to be completed before the next class

Pack up when directed and clean the room before leaving in a calm manner when dismissed

UHS EXPECTATIONS IN 2026



Relationships

Kindness and Respect is to be displayed by all members of our community at all times. Build positive relationships with those around you and look after each other



Attention



Laptops are used in the classroom for teaching and learning purposes only. They must remain closed at all times unless students are instructed by a teacher to use them. Students are expected to give teachers 100% of their attention when being taught in class

Uniform

Students are permitted to wear uniform items (bottom half only) that do not have a logo but they are NOT permitted to wear tracksuit pants or leggings. All top half uniform must have the approved UHS Logo as supplied by KLAD. Year 7-9 students can wear PE Uniform on days they have PE only.



Food & Beverages



Energy Drinks are completely banned on school grounds
Water bottles are the only drink permitted in class
NO food permitted in class at all (students can eat at recess/lunch or during the five minute break between P1 and P2 or P3 and P4 only)

Key to Opportunities



To access opportunities to attend sports, excursions and camps our staff will work with families and students to support strong and consistent school attendance. Where attendance is a concern, the school may work with families to ensure students are demonstrating a commitment to regular attendance before participating in additional school opportunities. Students will also be required to demonstrate positive behaviour at school (no more than three serious behaviour concerns on Compass in a Term) and be completely up to date with schoolwork.

Aspiration

Respect

Kindness