

NEWS



Week 11
Term 1
11 April, 2025

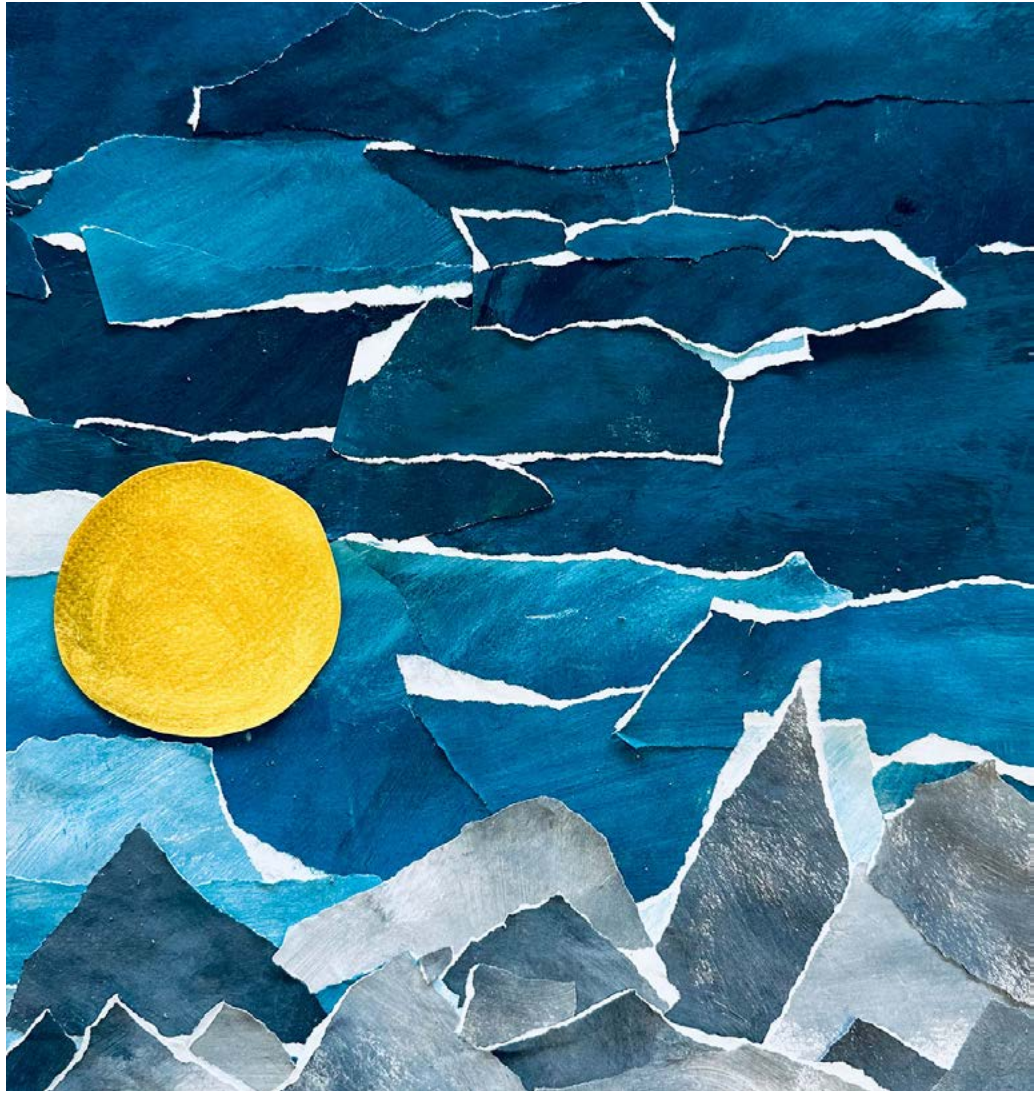
KARIONG MOUNTAINS HIGH SCHOOL

Unity ✓ Knowledge ✓ Respect

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LET'S



Year 12 - over 90% attendance as a year group!
Outstanding effort everyone!

C E L E B R A T E



To our Jacqui Matthew - a true KMHS legend!

UNIFORM SHOP

OPEN DURING SCHOOL TERM

8-9AM
TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS

CURRENT HOUSE POINTS

BOUDDI	DHARUG	GIRRAKOO	POPAN
4068	3849	3719	3849

CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
28 April	29 April	30 April	1 May	2 May
School Development Day	School Development Day	ALL STUDENTS RETURN FOR TERM 2 Life Changer Year 7	Max Potential Taronga Zoo Excursion	
5 May	6 May	7 May	8 May	9 May
	Stage 6 Parent Teacher Night			White Card Course



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our final Term 1 newsletter

This term has certainly moved at a busy pace, with our school celebrating success in transition, performance and ongoing improvement in meeting diverse student needs for success.

Farewell, to Mrs Matthew

It is with mixed emotions that I share the news that our own Mrs Matthew is leaving us at the end of term. As a founding staff member of the school, Mrs Matthew has been an extraordinary asset at KMHS, where her many roles have included classroom teacher, Mathematics Head Teacher, Year 7 Deputy Principal, Stage 6 Coordinator, and Partnerships Coordinator with the Kariong Mountains Learning Community. Her expertise and knowledge of all things mathematics is respected by all who have taught or work with her. Thank you, Mrs Matthew, for your years of dedication to the students, families and staff of Kariong Mountains High School - **you will be hugely missed!**



Year 7 - A great start!

Thank you, to all families, for your support with Year 7 beginning their high school journey. They are a talented year group, who are conducting themselves according to our school values 'Knowledge, Unity, Respect'. Year 7's great conduct was on display recently, at the very successful **Year 7 camp**. The camp is such an important activity for the students to develop teamwork, create trust relationships and to build resilience by stepping out of their comfort zones. Thank you, also, to our Year 7 wellbeing team of staff who attended, led by Mrs Doyle and Mr Treece. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Let's Celebrate KMHS Evening of Music !!!

Wednesday night this week, the CAPA faculty held the school's Evening of Music. This event showcases our rising stars in the music industry. Thank you, to all students who stepped out of their comfort zones and showcased the wonderful talent we have here at Kariong Mountains High School. Additionally, this was an opportunity to also showcase the talents of our Music Industry students.

This program has student enrolment from a number of local high schools on the Central Coast, thank you to those schools for supporting their students participation. A special thanks too, to our parent and carer community for taking the time to come and support the students. Lastly, to Mr Burns and Mr Hutchinson - their own talents in teaching the students the valuable lessons and passion for music were so evident this week, thanks to both staff members for their support, organisation and contributions.

Senior Assessments Update: Years 11 and 12

Term 1 has been a busy term, especially with Year 11 beginning their Preliminary year for their HSC pathway, and Year 12 already halfway through their HSC year. Congratulations, to Year 12 on their recent application and conduct in the recent half yearly examinations.

The rigour of senior study is very different to the junior school, and for some students, the senior course can be a challenge.

Kariong Mountains High School has a detailed assessment policy in place to support senior students. A copy is available on our [website](#). Both Years 11 and 12 were issued with these at the beginning of term. **Some key points for students and parents to remember in relation to the Assessment policy:**

All students are to sign for and retain a hard copy of their **assessment booklet**.

The **Assessment Policy** can be accessed on the school website.

Misadventure: in the event of a major illness or problem occurring, students must see Mr White, DP, as soon as possible. The student **MUST** see the DP on their **FIRST** day back at school to apply for a misadventure and submit appropriate paperwork. A medical certificate or statutory declaration needs to be submitted with the paperwork for the task mark to be counted. Examples of the documentation needed are found in the Assessment policy.

Technology glitches are not a valid reason for misadventure. Students must be organised and have a backup plan of using a USB to back up their work and printing at school if the need arises.

It is also a good idea to **map tasks on a calendar** or organiser so that they have a visual reminder of what is needed for time planning.

Assessment Schedules: Years 7-10

Assessment schedules for Years 7-10 have been published on the school website for all students. Please take the time to go through these with child, as prior time planning for effective completion of assessment tasks, will ultimately lead to further success for all students.

Thank you, to our parent community, for your ongoing support of this important process.

Annual Report 2024

Let's Celebrate Key Improvements!

As I complete the **2024 Annual Report**, I would like to share some key improvements the school has demonstrated in the last twelve months. In 2024, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

This included 'Tell Them From Me' (TTFM) surveys, parent feedback surveys on 6 to 7 transition, through discussions at P&C and in the many discussions that arose from calls, emails, letters and during school activities.

Student responses from the TTFM survey indicated the school has improved from 2023 and is now close to State norm in the areas of explicit teaching practices and feedback, expectations for success, wellbeing at school and sense of belonging.

Parent responses from the TTFM survey indicate the school is equal or above State norm in the areas of **two-way communication with parents, school supporting student learning** and **inclusive school culture**. 86% of parents surveyed indicated that the Positive Behaviour for Learning framework (PBL), introduced this year, was supportive or highly supportive of student learning.

Staff responses from the TTFM surveys indicated the school is equal or above state norm in the areas of leadership, collaboration, positive learning culture, data informed practice, technology efficiency, planned learning opportunities, quality feedback and overcoming obstacles to support student learning.

Staff responses for the Quality Teaching survey indicate that staff placed Kariong Mountains High School above average schools in the areas of leadership trust, shared vision, connectedness and school morale.

Check-in assessment was used in 2024 to gauge student growth in literacy and numeracy. The school showed an upward improvement in both areas, with the mean scaled score in reading increasing by 8 points in Year 8 and 13 points in Year 9. For numeracy, the mean scaled score has increased by 16 points in Year 8 and 9 points in Year 9.

Colder Months Ahead...

Firstly, a huge thankyou to all families for your efforts and support in ensuring our students enter the gates each day in the KMHS uniform. The improvement is certainly noticeable, and this is also supporting the settled culture in the school.

From the start of Term 2, the weather will turn colder. Last week, I sent an email to the school community regarding uniform expectations during colder months. Tracksuit pants and hooded jumpers are allowed to be worn by students on the provision they are PLAIN NAVY BLUE only, with no branding. Leggings of any colour are not permitted. The school uniform shop has school tracksuit pants and hooded jumpers for sale. Click the image tile below to access uniform ordering information on the school website:



IS YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM WINTER READY?

UNIFORM SHOP OPEN:

TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS

8 - 9 AM

The sign features images of school tracksuits and jumpers.

As we enter the holidays, can I say thank you, to our extraordinary KMHS school community for your support and efforts this term. To all our students and families, **Happy Easter** - have a safe break, rest up and we look forward to seeing you all back for another busy Term 2.

Mrs Donna James
Principal



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Term 1 - Week 11

Year 11 reports are now published and available for viewing. Students are encouraged to carefully examine each report and take heed of the advice offered by teachers. A Parent / Teacher session will occur on Tuesday May 6 (Week 2). Appointment bookings will be made available during the first week back.

Our school has a set of core rules that all students are expected to follow. Following is an excerpt from our Student Behaviour Policy which can be found on our website.

At KMHS students are expected to:

Attend school every day and attend all classes, unless legally excused.

Arrive at lessons on time and be prepared to participate in learning.

Strive for the highest standards in learning.

Maintain a neat appearance and comply with the school's uniform policy.

Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly.

Behave in a safe, considerate and responsible manner, this includes travel to and from school.

Be respectful at all times and cooperate with teacher instructions and learning activities.

Treat all members of the school community with dignity and respect.

Take care of their own property, the school's and others.

Keep the school grounds tidy at all times.

Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco or vaping devices into our school.

Not harass, bully or interfere with the safety of others or engage in any illegal or anti-social behaviour of any kind.

Congratulations, to recipients of the **PBL Rewards Breakfast** held on Wednesday. Despite the tight criteria, it was great to see so many students eligible. It is hoped that this will incentivise others to work more productively and increase their attendance.

Thank you, to students, families and staff for a great start to the year. I wish you all a happy and safe holiday break.

Mr Scott White
Deputy Principal



KMHS Positive Behaviour for Learning AWARD

Congratulations to our Canteen Voucher winners:

Kadence - Year 8
Finn - Year 11

HSIE

FACULTY NEWS

It has been a very busy Term in the HSIE faculty

Year 7 have been busy working hard on their **Geography Skills** unit and also their **'Landscapes and Landforms'** unit.



Year 8 are studying the Geography unit of work **'Interconnections'** and have been researching the working conditions in factories where products of some of the worlds largest companies are made.

Year 9 are working on the **'Movement of Peoples'** History unit of work and have been researching the impacts suffered by many of the world's indigenous groups.



Year 10 have just completed their **'Rights and Freedoms'** assessment task and will now move on to the **'Holocaust'** unit of work.

Year 11 Business Studies, Ancient History, Modern History and Society and Culture classes have all been working hard this term.

Year 12 Half-Yearly Examinations took place in Week 10. Best wishes to all Year 12 students for continued success in their final year.

PBL Awards

Congratulations, to all of the recipients of the PBL HSIE awards, which were presented at the Week 9 assembly.



Mr Derryn Tagg
Head Teacher HSIE

MUSIC NEWS

Year 8 Music

This term, **Year 8** have been learning about Rock music and developing their performance skills on the guitar. All students have shown remarkable resilience and motivation, culminating in a final performance of **four rock riffs** as part of their Term 1 assessment task.



Year 8 students have recently been learning to play chords to "**Riptide**" by Vance Joy on the ukulele. It has been an impressive term.

Year 9 Music

This term, **Year 9** have been learning about the fundamentals of Music. As part of this, they have been learning how to collaborate and perform music together. This week, they performed their songs to a class audience for the first time.



Year 10 Elective Music

Students in the **Year 10 Music Elective** course have been practising and developing performances related to the **Rock Music** genre.



Each student selected a relevant Rock song and practised on their chosen instrument, while also enhancing their ensemble awareness by

collaborating as a band. These performances will be presented for their assessment task in Week 11.

Year 11 Music

Students in the **Year 11 Music 1** course have just finished their first assessment task. They had to each perform 1 piece of music to their teachers and submit an analysis of their song. The students' results were very pleasing, which is testament to their hard work in class and their willingness to support each other in ensembles.



Year 11 Music Industry

The **Year 11 Music Industry** class is made up of KMHS students, along with students from four other schools on the coast. They have just finished their first task, learning about roles in the music industry, along with copyright and ways to generate income as a musician.

Last week, they had their first '**Open Jam**', where they played together for the first time in preparation for their next unit, in they will learn about live sound and performance.



Year 12 Music 1

Year 12 Music 1 have been preparing their chosen electives for the **half-yearly examination**. Students had the option to select either a performance piece, a viva voce discussion, or a composition to present as their electives.

Year 12 Music Industry

Year 12 Music Industry students have been developing skills in digital music production and improvisation. They were assigned to create a song using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) that meets specific criteria. Additionally, each student had to prepare two improvisations in different genres and perform them individually or as part of an ensemble.

Mr Ashley Hutchinson
CAPA Teacher and PBL Coordinator

VISUAL ARTS

IN THE CLASSROOM

Our Visual Arts and Photography Video and Digital Imagery students have been very productive this term.

Senior Photography

Years 11 and 12 PVDI have been exploring action and sports photography, with a focus on freezing and slowing down movement. They have experimented with camera settings and composition to create action and sports shots with some good results.



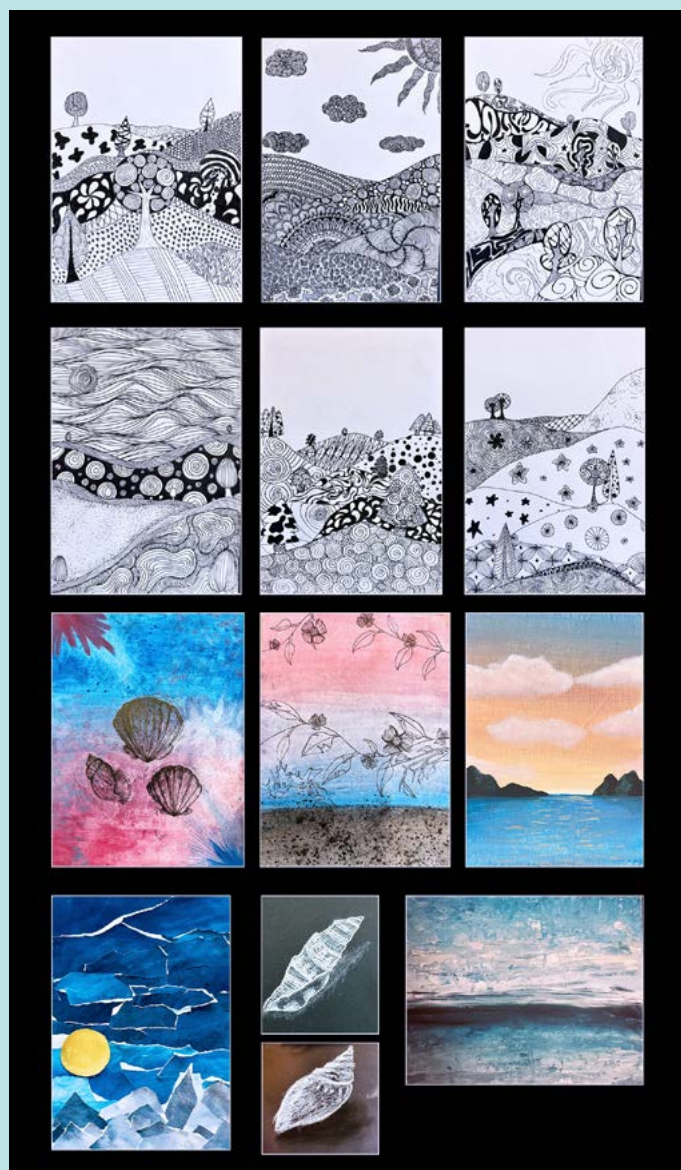
Year 12 Visual Arts

Year 12 Visual Arts students have been experimenting with mediums and working towards developing their concepts and skills for their **Body Of Work** for 2025.

The students have also worked on developing their written skills for **critical** and **historical studies** and have just completed the half-yearly exam.

Stage 5 Art and Photographic and Digital Media

Years 9 and 10 Visual Arts students have created some amazing artworks this term. They are developing skills in landscape painting and have explored nature through experimenting with different mediums.



Years 9 and 10 Photography students have learnt about the foundations of the darkroom process to create photograms, chemograms and pinhole prints. **Some excellent artworks.**



Stage 4

The talented **Year 7 Art** students have been creating art in a range of expressive forms.

Students commenced Term 1, focusing on **design elements** to create a variety of two-dimensional artworks, ranging from zentangle pen drawings, abstract paintings, tonal drawings and photograms involving darkroom processing. **The results are outstanding!**



ARTS Space (Art Club)

Come and join the Art Club every Tuesday at lunch time in the art rooms. Explore, experiment, and enjoy spending time with other students, who are creative and learning new skills in art.

Media Club

Every Friday break 2. Explore how to use digital and film cameras to create amazing photographs or film.

Mrs Kim Skerritt
Visual Arts Teacher

CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS NEWS

Mitch Joins Native Coastal Landscapes

Congratulations, Mitch, a Year 11 student in the **School to Work** pathway, who has successfully secured a job with Native Coastal Landscapes!



This exciting opportunity is a fantastic step in Mitch's career and we are thrilled to see his hard work pay off.



A big thank you to **Brad** at **Native Coastal Landscapes** for offering Mitch this valuable opportunity.

We wish Mitch all the best as he starts this new chapter and look forward to his continued success in the future!

Student Spotlight:

Eloise - SBAT Training NSW Award Nominee

Eloise, in Year 12, was recently nominated for a **Training NSW Award** for exceptional dedication to her School Based Traineeship in **Human Services - Individual Support**.

Balancing her studies with her traineeship, Eloise consistently demonstrates outstanding commitment, strong work ethic and compassion. Her ability to excel in both school and work makes her a standout student. Congratulations, Eloise, on this well deserved recognition!



Mr Hipwell
Careers Advisor

A Heartfelt Goodbye to the Kariong Mountains Learning Community

As I reflect on my time at Kariong Mountains High School, it is hard to believe that the journey I began in 2010 has come to an end.

I still vividly remember our early days in the Carinya and McCabe Cottages at Mt Penang, before moving to our current site just four weeks later. From those humble beginnings with Years 7 and 8, to our first HSC cohort in 2014 and beyond, **I've always felt immense pride in being part of the school's development and successes.**

Over the years, I have had the privilege of being part of a community that has continuously evolved, shaping so many wonderful students and their families. From **Day 1,** I've been inspired by the dedication, warmth, and spirit of the Kariong Mountains community. Watching the school grow, the students thrive, and the partnerships within our community strengthen has been an incredibly rewarding experience.

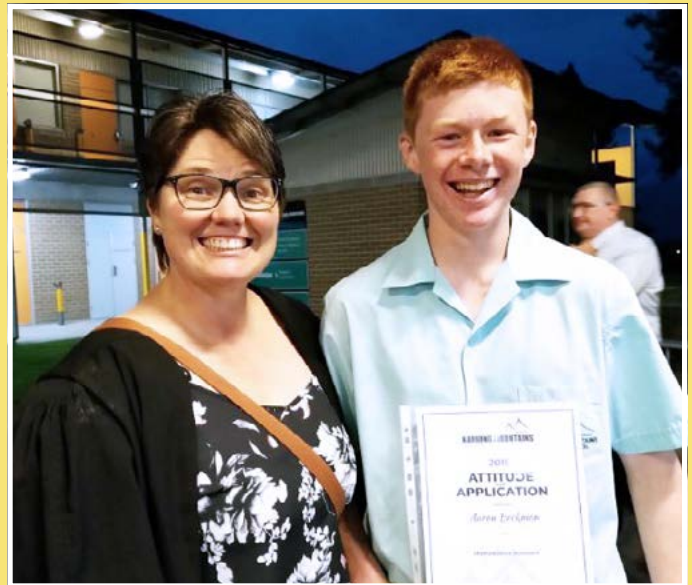


I've been fortunate to work alongside passionate educators and staff, who have always strived to provide the very best for our students. Together, we have created an environment where students feel not only challenged, but also safe, supported, and valued.

A special mention must go to **Ms Anne Vine**, who took a chance on me as a new Head Teacher and has been an unwavering support throughout my career. **Anne, thank you for opening my eyes to the true meaning of life-long learning.**



To the students, thank you for your curiosity, enthusiasm and sense of humour. You've taught me as much as I hope I've taught you. You have always been at the forefront of every decision I've made, whether in the classroom, as an Executive member, or within the wider community. **Thank you for embracing maths—it truly is a wonderful subject!** To Year 12 2025, thank you. You know who you are.



To the parents and caregivers, your support and trust in both me and the school have been instrumental in creating a positive learning environment. Kariong Mountains is a great institution, and I am proud that both my children have been successful recipients of the opportunities it offers. To my colleagues, thank you for your collaboration, friendship, and tireless efforts to help our students succeed each and every day. You've continually pushed me to do more and be better, and I am deeply grateful.

While it is bittersweet to say goodbye, I am confident the school is in great hands. Mrs Donna James is an exceptional leader, one who cares deeply about each and every one of you. Her personal touch, tireless work ethic, and inspiring dedication have left an indelible mark on me. I am incredibly grateful for her support in encouraging me to continually strive for excellence.

I leave Kariong Mountains with countless fond memories and will cherish the time spent here with all of you. Thank you, Kariong Mountains, for being such a significant part of my life. Though this chapter is closing for me, the bonds we have formed will last a lifetime. I wish you all continued success, happiness, and growth as you move forward.

With heartfelt thanks and best wishes,

Mrs Jacqueline Matthew

WISHING ALL KMHS STUDENTS AND FAMILIES A HAPPY, SAFE BREAK!

ALL STUDENTS RETURN FOR TERM 2:

**WEDNESDAY
30
APRIL**



YOUTH FEST CARNIVAL

**Wednesday - 23rd April
1pm-4pm**

Oasis Youth Services
15 Hely Street Wyong



**FREE CARNIVAL ACTIVITIES,
GIVEAWAYS & FOOD
AGES 12-18**



Register now to take part in our giveaways on the day!



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Central Coast Council Library Service

April 14-24

Book from 31 March, 8am

Ages 3-17

Escape room
Arcade games
Circuit designs
Creative writing
Rock pets
Wool crafts
Dungeons & Dragons
Lego marble mazes
Art and crafts and much more!

libraries.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/whats-on

Study Skills

From the Study Skills Handbook **CREATE A STUDY PLAYLIST**

1. Choose the Right Genre for the Task

Different **types of music** work better for different study activities.

The **absence of lyrics** ensures you won't get distracted while reading or writing. For **brainstorming sessions** or **creative work**, try upbeat instrumental tracks or even light jazz. These genres can spark ideas and keep you energised.

TIP TRY NATURE SOUNDS LIKE RAIN OR WAVES IF YOU PREFER A DISTRACTION-FREE ENVIRONMENT.

2. Keep the Volume Low

While music can be motivating, it's important to remember that **too much stimulation can have the opposite effect**. A loud, fast-paced song might be great for a workout but can be distracting when studying. Keep your playlist at a low volume, allowing it to serve as background noise that **enhances focus** rather than competing for your attention.

TIP USE NOISE-CANCELLING HEADPHONES TO BLOCK OUT DISTRACTIONS AND STAY IN YOUR STUDY ZONE.

3. Avoid Lyrics when Reading or Writing

Songs with lyrics are notorious for disrupting focus during tasks that involve reading or writing. It's hard to analyse Shakespeare or draft an essay when your brain is processing the words in a pop song.

TIP IF YOU'RE DRAWN TO LYRICAL MUSIC, CONSIDER SONGS IN A LANGUAGE YOU DON'T SPEAK FLUENTLY.

4. Build a Custom Playlist

Creating a dedicated study playlist is **key to avoiding distractions**. Instead of spending time skipping tracks, curate a list of songs that **fit your study style**.

Apps like Spotify offer pre-made playlists for studying, such as 'Focus', 'Deep Focus', and 'Lo-Fi Beats', which can serve as **inspiration**.

TIP START WITH CALMING TRACKS FOR FOCUS, ENERGETIC SONGS FOR MOTIVATION AND SLOWER TRACKS TO END.



Music is more than just entertainment—it can be a **powerful ally** in your study routine. By selecting the right genres, controlling the volume, and **tailoring your playlist** to your tasks, you can create an environment that keeps you motivated and focused.

Experiment with your playlist, refine it over time, and discover the tunes that turn studying into a more enjoyable and effective experience. **So, grab your headphones, press play, and let the music work its magic.**

Learn more at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au
Username and password available on Compass.

HANDY LINKS TO RESOURCES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE:

- [ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES](#)
- [SCHOOL POLICIES](#)
- [PARENT RESOURCES](#)