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15 December 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we reflect on the past year at Blacktown Girls High School, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your unwavering support.

In 2023, the accomplishments of our students and staff have been diverse and numerous. Let's begin with our graduating class of year 12; we take immense pride in their achievements and celebrate their victories. We hope they are as pleased with their results as we are and eagerly anticipate hearing about their continued journey, shaping themselves into exceptional young individuals, a journey nurtured during their time at Blacktown Girls High School.

Our students' performance in the 2023 NAPLAN and VALID assessments was outstanding, with student value added significantly surpassing the state mean. We also expanded our student support services, introducing an additional Community Liaison Officer, Student Support Officer, and extra wellbeing support staff. This positive experience notably enhanced student services and bolstered new proactive wellbeing programs.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated teachers and learning support staff for creating exceptional and innovative curriculum opportunities. The Heads of Faculty have been instrumental leaders, paving the way for remarkable opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom. Our administrative team's professionalism, dedication, and caring attitude contribute to making the school a wonderful place for learning and growth.

PDHPE and CAPA classes have continued to introduce exciting curriculum initiatives, such as the studentdesigned and implemented picture book series and various sports coaching opportunities. Special mention goes to the faculty members for their hard work in extracurricular activities, including School Spectacular, Dance and Cheer, Knockout and Sport Gala days, Creative Arts shows, Performance Evenings, and other areas where they lead and excel.

In the Creative and Performing Arts, our students have excelled, participating in School Spectacular, creating a remarkable Art exhibition, and earning two awards at the Nationals in Cheer and Dance competitions. Despite staffing shortages, our PDHPE staff has powered through, ensuring our girls don't miss out on opportunities. Our students' achievements at regional and national sporting levels are outstanding, and we look forward to celebrating these successes at our dedicated sports assembly early next year.

Our Debating and Public Speaking teams experienced their biggest growth ever, achieving notable success. Students represented Blacktown Girls HS in debating and public speaking at the state level, culminating in the first-ever Model UN at BGHS.

I-STEM has continued to flourish, with our Stage 4 and 5 teams making it to National Championships, many thanks must go to the outstanding leadership and mentorship by Mr. Hill and Mr. Chamberlain.

The new school signs, upgraded facilities, and ongoing infrastructure improvements, including a new Senior Study Space, a demountable classroom, rebuilt kitchens and labs and plans for a new school hall, demonstrate our commitment to providing the best learning environment.

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As we transition into 2024, we anticipate a year filled with even more engaging choices and challenges, including school concerts, choirs, sporting tournaments, excursions, and outstanding learning opportunities.

A special thank you to all parents, caregivers, and our P&C Association for your trust in the BGHS staff during a year marked by staffing challenges and a dynamic social and political landscape. We are grateful for your support and are optimistic about the opportunities that 2024 will bring to showcase the talents of your remarkable daughters.

We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our dedicated Leadership Team, whose strategic initiatives reflect their commitment to the students and envision an exciting future for BGHS. Their efforts aim to enhance all aspects of our student body while honouring our traditions and making a positive impact.

To our exceptional staff, thank you for your wisdom, dedication, and resilience. Your commitment to the school's vision and innovative approaches contribute significantly to our students' growth and success.

And, most importantly, to our wonderful, kind, and inspiring students, you are the reason for our smiles, occasional tears, but above all, our pride. Witnessing you lead makes us envision a better world.

Thank you all for a fantastic year, and here's to an even brighter 2024!

Yours sincerely,

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**Mrs Maria Trimmis** Principal Blacktown Girls High School



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Making a difference in the education of young women