



Diary Dates

There are no events



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Principal's Report

As 2020 begins to draw to a close, it is important to reflect on the fact that this year has been nothing short of extraordinary for all Australians. It has required an unprecedented level of resilience and energy from our students, staff and the Merewether High School community. The profound and deep capacity for resilience, coping and empathy demonstrated by all has certainly led to the successes that we will celebrate in the coming weeks.

Prefect Investiture

On Thursday 26 November our 2021 school prefects were formally inducted into their school leadership roles at the Prefect Investiture Ceremony. Congratulations to our four captains and sixteen prefects who were invested into their office for the next twelve months. The ceremony was a celebratory event acknowledging our students' leadership capabilities and recognises the high esteem with which these positions are held at Merewether High School.



Captains: George McNamara and Lili Sabine
Vice Captains: Pepita Barton and Flynn Starrett
Prefects: Sophia Bell, Aidan Bottom, Teia Bradbury, Daniel Clarke, Liam Fabien, Lily Francis, Isabella Halpin, Grace Love, Lily O'Callaghan, Phoebe Parker, Joshua Robertson and Sophia Suters

P&C Meeting

On Tuesday 17 November our school's P&C Meeting was conducted face-to-face at school. These meetings provide parents and carers the opportunity to connect to the school and contribute to school and community consultation. I would like to personally thank those parents who attended, for their valuable contribution and for warmly welcoming me to our school community. As a school we warmly welcome parent and community voice and see it as a valued asset in strengthening our positive school culture and ensuring that we have a parent perspective in our school's decision making and planning.



Year 7 2021 Orientation Day

On Tuesday 1 December we will be hosting our Year 7 2021 students for Orientation Day. Students will be introduced to key personnel, participate in activities and will be informed of the many programs available at our great school. They will also have the opportunity to connect with our Peer Support Leaders and establish relationships with their peer group. The staff and students of Merewether High School are very much looking forward to welcoming the incoming Year 7 students to our school community in 2021.

Presentation Day

Our annual School Presentation Day will be held on Tuesday 15 December. This ceremony is a significant event on our school calendar, as it allows us to formally recognise our students and staff for their commitment and achievements throughout the year. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions we will not be able to have parents and carers in attendance. Further communication will be forthcoming in regards to livestreaming for this event.

At this presentation ceremony we will recognise major award winners, academic course awards, awards for leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship and school and community service. To be the recipient of an award is very prestigious and it recognises individual determination, effort and achievement across the school. We are extremely proud of our students and look forward to celebrating these achievements with them. To be the recipient of an award is a very special thing that recognises determination, effort and achievement across the school. We are very proud of our students and look forward to celebrating these achievements with them.

HSC/ATAR BBQ Breakfast

Friday 18 December marks an important day for all of our staff and students completing the 2020 HSC. This is the day when HSC and ATAR results are released, reflecting the hard work and dedication throughout the HSC year. We hope that this day brings for our students the joy of new opportunities and the prospects of a rewarding future. Staff will be looking forward to celebrating and sharing stories with Year 12 students. All 2020 Year 12 students are invited to attend from 9.30am to 11:00am.

2021 Term 1: Important Dates

Term 1 commencement dates for 2021 are as follows:

Tuesday 26 January	Australia Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 27 January	Staff return to school for Staff Development Day – Day 1
Thursday 28 January	Staff Development Day – Day 2
Friday 29 January	Years 7, 11 and 12 students return to school
Monday 1 February	Years 8, 9 and 10 students return to school

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the staff of Merewether High to wish all families a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy festive season. This is a time of great joy and relaxation and I hope that you all are able to spend quality time with family and friends.

I look forward to working with everyone in 2021.



Deputies' Report

As this is our final Bulletin for 2020 we have taken some time to reflect on our year. Without a doubt 2020 has been like no other year that we have experienced in schools. Students and staff have had to reinvent the way they teach and learn as our 'normal school life' was turned completely upside down. What did not change was the determination and resilience of our students and staff to continue to do what they do best - engage in learning, even if it was a totally new way of doing so. Change happened quickly and we were so proud of the way everyone adapted to these frequent variations and continued with their learning in a positive way.

As the year progressed, students across Years 7 – 12 returned to classrooms with a renewed energy and real appreciation for school. Whilst we weren't able to engage in the full range of sporting and extracurricular activities, our culture and school spirit continued to flourish in the playground.

We were fortunate enough to celebrate our swimming achievements at the annual swimming carnival at Lambton pool in early February. It was fantastic to see such a broad range of participation from our highly competitive swimmers to those who enthusiastically participated in our novelty events.

At the beginning of the year we had the opportunity to meet with each Year 12 student for an academic review meeting where we supported them to set clear learning goals and to achieve their personal best throughout one of the most difficult HSC years. Year 7 began the year incredibly enthusiastically and ventured off to Morisset for their camp. On camp they worked collaboratively to survive mud world, traverse rock climbing walls and outwit the teachers in Commando, all whilst forming friendships with their peers and staff. We welcomed our new Year 7 families at a BBQ and school disco early Term 1 where it was fantastic to meet with our new families. Despite having to learn from home for a significant period of time, they have now settled in and immersed themselves in the Merewether way.

Our students in Years 8, 9 10 and 11 also faced a challenging year. Students in Years 9 and 11 unfortunately were not able to participate in their planned camps in Sydney and Jindabyne. They took this in their stride and refused to let COVID dampen their spirit and have continued engaging in a range of school-based events.

As the year draws to a close we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday surrounded by family and friends. We are looking forward to working with Mrs Dooley, our school captains and prefects and all of our parents, staff and students into 2021.

Jane Crooks and Esme Corney



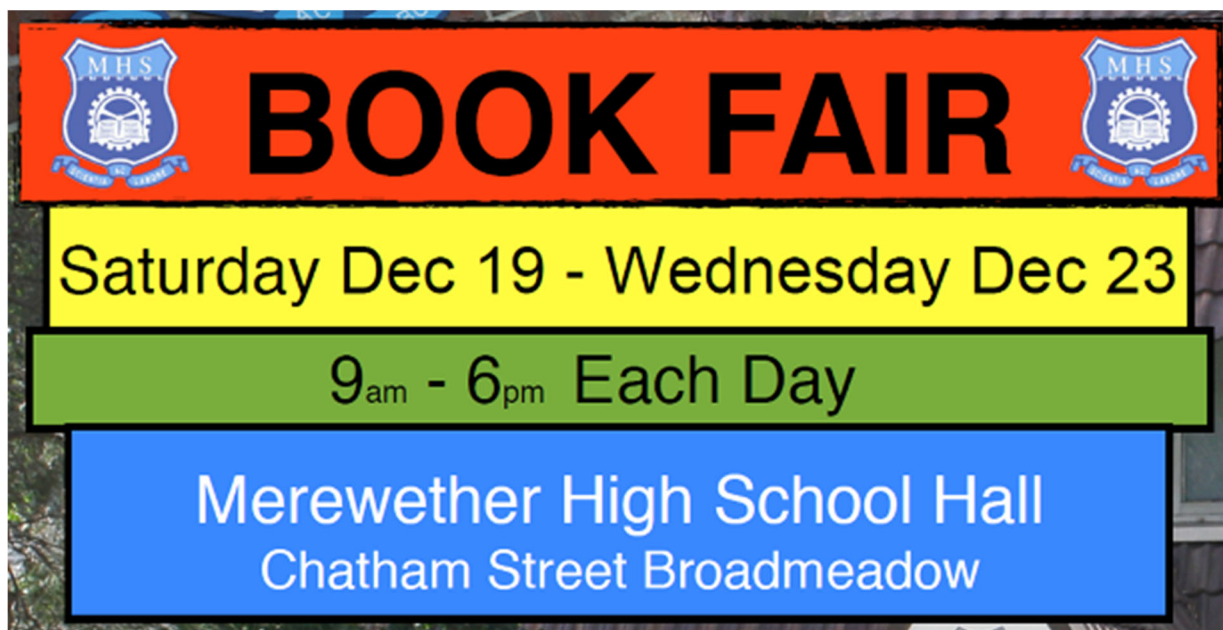
TAS

Design & Technology Case Study field Trip

On one of the most coldest and wet days of summer, our Design & Technology class met at 7am for a bus trip to Taronga Zoo. The poor weather was beneficial with our students having virtually the entire zoo to themselves. On arrival we were welcomed by Taronga Keeper, Adam. He talked to us in one of the zoo's state of the art habitat classrooms, where we got to see some adorable cotton-top Tamarins up close inside their enclosure. Our hour with these cute little primates was just the beginning of a very big day of adventure. The students split up into smaller groups and explored the zoo, investigating different types of enclosures and filling out our work booklets. At times they did get distracted by all the animals. After a cold, wet, but fun day, and a quick trip to the gift shop, we embarked on the bus ride home. Student case studies are developing as we explore various enclosure design with a variety of requirements. Students are investigating the visitors' expectations and experiences while identifying the conservation work the zoo provides for a global society. The case study forms part of the HSC subject requirements.

Andrew Donaldson - TAS Teacher





ALL WELCOME!

In anticipation of the international borders reopening next year, we are resuming our Sports Tour fundraising by reinstating the ever popular, Sports Tour Book Fair.

We invite the MHS school community and their friends and families to join us in making the fair a success. With book prices ranging from \$3.00 to \$5.00 and quality books from most genres available, the fair will be the perfect opportunity for you to support the school grab yourself a bargain or shop for Christmas presents.

We have sourced over 30,000 books to date, but are still seeking donations of clean, unstained books in 'as-new condition' to add to our supply. Boxes of books can be dropped to the school administration office between 9.00am and 3.00pm or directly to the school hall during the event.

Discount Voucher: Print and bring the following voucher on the day to receive a discount.



CAPA

DRAMA

In Week 5, the Year 8 Elective Drama class had their performance assessment focusing on play building performances they have worked hard on creating, as well as interpretations of well known Monty Python scenes.

This was their first taste of running a production, and they handled the experience with theatrical professionalism. The MHS Drama ensemble attended the performance to be our audience, ensuring that even though we were unable to hold our annual performance evening, the students were still able to perform to a large group.

The students will now use the recording of the performances to help them write a theatre review of one performance for their final assessment for the course. This was a fantastically comedic production and they should all be very proud of their performance!



MUSIC

As the written assessments have been completed for all of our Music students, we are now focusing on further developing performance skills on a range of instruments and in a range of ensemble combinations. Some of our students are working towards performance repertoire for the year assemblies in Weeks 9 and 10 where we look forward to seeing them perform to a live audience.

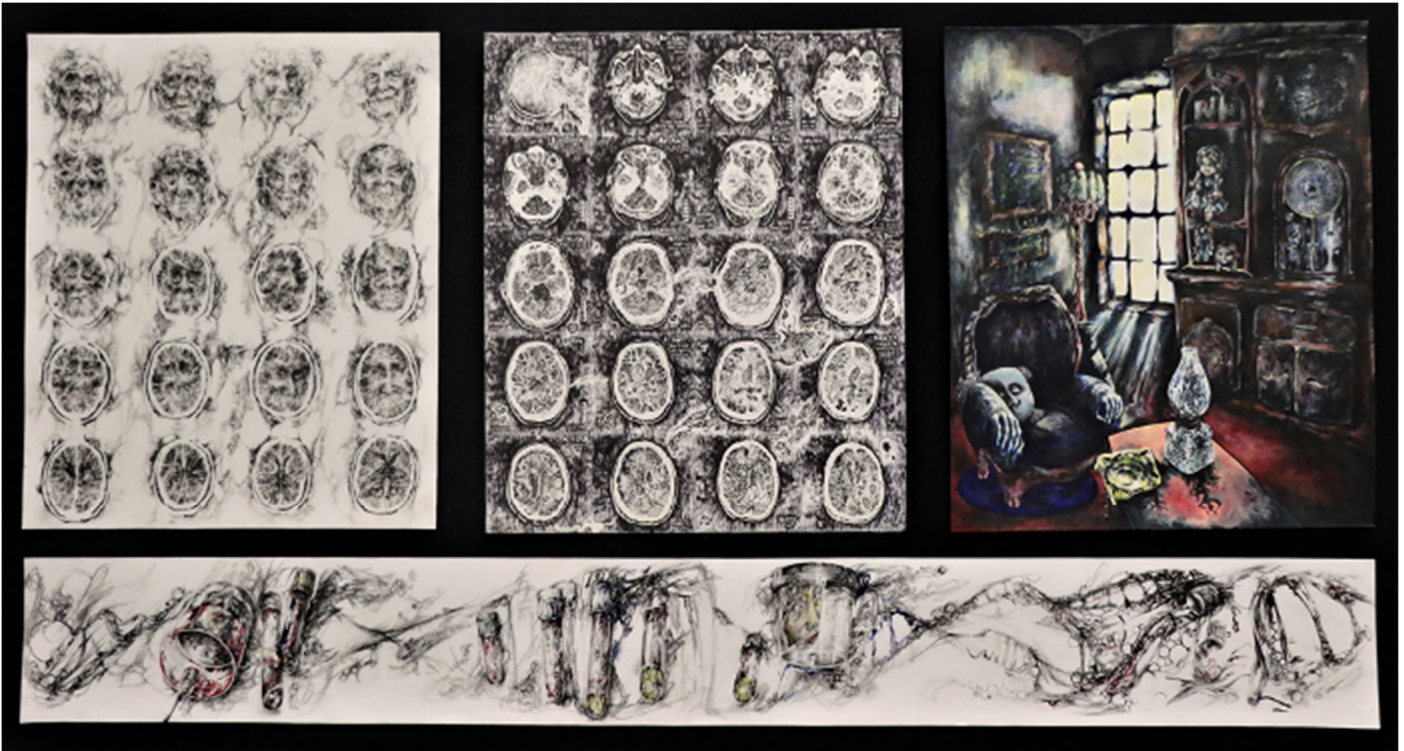
**MUSIC ENSEMBLES**

Our new Merewether High School Orchestra has been forging ahead with rehearsals this term, joining together each week to create a wonderful new sound. Fifteen dedicated young musicians meet each Monday morning at 8.00am to rehearse challenging orchestral repertoire including Shostakovich's Waltz No 2 and a Borodin Polovtsian Dance. More string players are encouraged to join the ensemble and share in this beautiful music. We look forward to our debut performance at the end-of-year assemblies this term.

Concert Band members are to be congratulated for their perseverance and dedication this year in maintaining a practice routine throughout all the disruptions, and continuing to work hard during our rehearsals. The excellent music we make each Thursday morning in the Learning Centre is testament to our students' talent and effort. Musicians are always encouraged to keep up their practice time at home, with practice music available on Moodle, and ensure they are ready to start rehearsals at 7.30am on Thursdays.

VISUAL ARTS**ARTEXPRESS**

Congratulations to **Abbie Barr**, selected in Artpress exhibition 2021. The Artpress exhibition showcases exemplary Visual Arts Body of Works from across the state. From nearly 9,000 students, only about 200 are selected for exhibition. Abbie's work, titled 'A Fait Accompli?' looks at generational dementia and its impact within families. We anticipate seeing Abbie's sensitive and refined artwork at the Maitland Art Gallery in 2021.

**Year 9 Visual Arts**

Year 9 Visual Arts are currently working on their own Body of Work looking at self-identity. This unit of work requires each student to reflect on how they see themselves and how others might perceive them. Students can explore a variety of artmaking options, from painting, clay and printmaking to create their artworks. It's an individualised program and all students determine their own learning by exploring what interests them in artmaking and art theory through their Visual Arts Diary and Body of Work.





ART CLUB - NAIDOC WEEK

During Week 5, Art Club celebrated NAIDOC Week with a Weaving workshop. Students and teachers enjoyed a lunchtime of weaving bangles from paper raffia. Week 6 also saw Art Club investigate traditional weaving techniques with some very impressive outcomes.



PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS

This term we have been fortunate to have two amazing pre-service teachers, Mr Pearce and Ms Robinson Retter. They have been highly engaged with students, and have brought a wealth of knowledge to each of their classes. Many of our junior students have seen both of these teachers in training and have learnt a great deal from them. We have been blessed to have such talented teachers in our faculty, and we wish them all the best for the future.





CAPA ENSEMBLES AND CLUBS

Orchestra - Monday morning 8.00am KM1

String Ensemble - Monday lunch KM1

Sax Quartet - Monday lunch KM2

Junior Drama - Monday lunch KDS

Art Club - Wednesday lunch FA2

Jam Ensemble - Wednesday lunch KM1

Concert Band - Thursday morning 7.30am LC

Percussion Ensemble - Thursday lunch LC

Flute Quartet - Thursday lunch KM2

Ukulele Ensemble - Friday lunch KM1

Clarinet Quartet - Friday lunch KM2

Senior Drama - Friday lunch KDS



Debating

Years 7 and 8 Debating Report

This year our debating schedule began quite late due to the COVID-19 scenario. Initially the debates were cancelled but as time moved on and the advantage of zooming became apparent, we began to embrace again the opportunity to debate and participate in the Premier's Debating Challenge.

With this new platform of on-line debating our students rose to the occasion and were diligent in their preparation for debates and in their professionalism in presentation. The debate calendar was condensed and we began regional rounds. Newcastle High School, Waratah Campus of Callaghan College and Hunter School of Performing Arts were our opponents. Both Year 7 and Year 8 had two wins and one loss and unfortunately both teams were knocked out of the competition after three debates.

The students who participated in Year 8 were the talented and enthusiastic: William Hadley, Zoe Stead, Miriam Palazzi and Scarlette Morante.

Our Year 7 squad were a mix of very enthusiastic debaters who took turns so all had the opportunity to participate. They were: Riti Bhattacharya, Shreya Choudbury, Lila-Maya Kilham, Marissa Thomas, Pranyah Sripadi, Laria Crawford and Lucille Healey. All students performed admirably and obtained positive feedback from the adjudicators stationed in Sydney.

All students can be proud of their achievement and of how they accepted the wise advice and encouragement given by the adjudicators. Thanks also goes to Bella Freeman who volunteered to assist with chairing and timekeeping.

I am sure that next year there will be even more determination to participate in this wonderful competition which not only challenges our students but also gives them the opportunity to voice their ideas on topics and wrestle with issues prevalent in our society today.

Mrs Carman - English Faculty and Year 7/8 Debating Coach and Mentor

Years 9 and 10 Debating Report

The 'new normal' brought to us by COVID-19 hasn't been all bad news. Unfortunately, it was for the Year 11 and 12 teams who missed out on competing this year. However, Sara Hayes and Charlotte Paterson from the Year 11 Team stepped forward to provide encouragement and a coaching session for the Year 9 Team. It's a special thing seeing this vertical relationship forming amongst the debaters.

Happily, Years 9 and 10 were able to compete in The Premier's Debating Challenge and did so with excellence and graciousness. We quite enjoyed the new way [for us] of debating via Zoom links, though remote schools have successfully used this method for some time. This was an exciting shift where we were able to meet other teams from across a wider spread of schools and have the benefit of a pool of adjudicators who all gave excellent general and personal feedback and loads of encouragement. Our debaters learnt something new each time and had good opportunity to ask further questions. It also cut travel times significantly and the debaters were spared the 'drive and jive coaching method' of past years.

At the time of reporting, the Year 10 team are out of the competition, having lost the affirmative case, that we should limit the ownership of cars to one per household, by a nano-point to Auburn Girls' High School in Round 4. But, the Year 9 Team have powered through to the State Semi-final which is set for November 27. They got there after defeating Sydney Girls High School in the Round 6 Quarter-finals, making a more successful and cleverly nuanced affirmative case for the proposal, that we should ban tourism in The Great Barrier Reef. Whether they lose or win the next debate they should feel very proud of what they have achieved this year in debating and as people.

In the Year 10 squad we had Aysha Willis and Lennox Hepple planted firmly in second and third speaker roles respectively, and Thusunda Dewamitta, Emma Cullen and Mikayla Harrod trying first and Team Advisor roles, and Ellie Bassos joining as Team Advisor and Erin Hartley at first in Round 1. In the Year 9 squad we had Gabe Logan at first and second speaker, Caitlin Silivinec at first and Team Advisor, Amy de Malmanche at second and third, Ruby Parsons at third and Alex Fischer at Team Advisor.

I congratulate all the debaters for their efforts, teamwork and courage in taking on this debating challenge. It's no easy thing to develop a strong case in an hour and think up pointed refutation of the opposition's case on the spot. It's a bit like fixing a plane while it's in the air flying through turbulence and with one hand tied behind your back.

Michelle Burdekin - English Faculty and Year 9/10 Debating Coach

JAPANESE

In August, seventeen of our Year 8 students entered the 2020 Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest for NSW and NT. We were delighted to hear the competition results which were announced last week. Three students received individual awards. Emma Barker's essay was judged to be Outstanding while Anika Barry and Elly Cadet received Highly Commended awards. Merewether High School was selected by the judges as School of the Year 2020 for having the highest percentage of top-quality essays.

On Wednesday 18 November we welcomed to our school Consul-General Kiya and Consul Murata from the Japanese Consulate in Sydney. The purpose of this visit was to acknowledge our contest winners and present them with certificates and prizes. Mrs Dooley received, on our behalf, the School of the Year award. In a year when there have been limited opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities or to host visitors, it was exciting to enjoy such success and to hear an interesting address by Consul-General Kiya.



November
2020

Merewether High School Bulletin



Book Fair



Saturday 19th Dec.

9.00am - 6.00pm

through to

Wednesday

23rd Dec.

9.00am - 6.00pm



Over 35,000 books

To be held at Merewether High School

(Chatham Rd Broadmeadow - opposite Newcastle Racecourse)



Duke of Ed Information for students in Year 9 2021

Merewether High School offers a Duke of Edinburgh Award program starting at the Bronze level in Year 9.

Depending on COVID restrictions, we hope to run an information session early in Term 1 next year, with registration sessions soon after.

Keep an eye on school emails and daily notices early Term 1 for further information.

What is Duke of Ed?

- Duke of Ed is a personal development program which involves components of volunteer service, physical fitness, skill, and adventurous journeys.
- The adventurous journey component at MHS involves an exciting and challenging bush walking program which enables students to learn navigation, bush craft & camping skills, team work, problem solving and first aid. Most of all students enjoy getting to know their peers in an environment outside school.
- It is also a great experience for the parents, as the parent group coordinates and participates in the adventurous journeys, with support from the Parent Support Group.

More information

- Duke of Ed handbook on the school [website](#) (Duke of Ed tab)
- Duke of Ed Australia [website](#).



Merewether High School
CHANGE OF FAMILY DETAILS

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

DATE OF CHANGE: _____ Roll class/Scholastic year: _____

STUDENT-First name: _____ Surname: _____

FAMILY NAME IF DIFFERENT FROM STUDENTS: _____

ADDRESS DETAILS

MAILING TITLE: _____

NEW RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: _____

SUBURB: _____ POST CODE: _____

NEW MAILING ADDRESS (if different to above): _____

SUBURB: _____ POST CODE: _____

OLD ADDRESS: _____

SUBURB: _____ POSTCODE: _____

CONTACT DETAILS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

1ST PARENT/CARERS NAME: _____

HOME: _____ MOBILE: _____ WORK: _____

2ND PARENT/CARERS NAME: _____

HOME: _____ MOBILE: _____ WORK: _____

FAMILY EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NB: This is the address where all email correspondence from the school will be sent.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS – other than parents

1ST EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____ Relationship to student _____

HOME: _____ MOBILE: _____ WORK: _____

2ND EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____ Relationship to student _____

HOME: _____ MOBILE: _____ WORK: _____

MEDICAL CONDITIONS (please advise of student medical condition): _____

FAMILY LAW DETAILS (please provide a copy of court orders if applicable)

TYPE OF ORDER: _____ DATE: _____

ACCESS DETAILS: _____

PARENT/CARER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



Shop Hours
Monday 9.00-12.00pm
Thursday 1.00-3.30pm

Contact Details
0401 725 885
merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au
150 Chatham Street, Broadmeadow
NSW 2292

Merewether High School Uniform Shop Order Form



Order Form Details

Uniform Yr7-Yr12	Size	Price	Size	Qty
S/S Blouse 7-9	J8-L20	\$41.00		
S/S Shirt 7-9	J8-3XL	\$39.00		
S/S Blouse 10-12	J10-L20	\$45.00		
S/S Shirt 10-12	J8-3XL	\$39.00		
Tartan Skirt	J8-L20	\$71.00		
Fitted Formal Shorts	J10-L20	\$45.50		
Fitted Pants	J10-L20	\$50.00		
Formal Shorts	J8-3XL	\$49.95		
Formal Trousers	J10-3XL	\$55.00		
Sports Uniform	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Sports Polo	J8-3XL	\$46.00		
Sports Shorts Unisex	J8-3XL	\$40.00		
Sport Shorts Girls Cut	J10-L20	\$40.00		
Tracksuit Jacket MF	J10-3XL	\$79.00		
Tracksuit Jacket - Heavy	J10-3XL	\$89.00		
Tracksuit Pants	J10-3XL	\$51.50		
Outerwear	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Jumper	10-16	\$84.00		
	18-20	\$94.00		
	22-26	\$104.00		

Bags	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Swim Excursion Bag	one	\$21.60		
Backpack	Large	\$87.50		
Accessories	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Sport Socks	All Sizes	\$10.00		
White Socks	All Sizes	\$6.95		
Black Socks	All Sizes	\$6.95		
Microfibre Tights	All Sizes	\$10.50		
Leather Belt	All Sizes	\$17.50		
Bucket Hat	S-XL	\$23.50		
Sports Cap	One Size	\$20.00		
Gloves		\$8.50		
Scarf		\$12.50		
Fabric Marker		\$4.00		

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Contact Number: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Pick up from shop
 Delivery to above address (Fees apply)

Payment Options

Visa Mastercard Cash (enclosed)

Name On Card: _____
 Credit Card Number: _____

 Expiry Date: ____/____/____
 CVC: _____
 Signature: _____

Note:

- Sizes not carried are available by custom order (SMU). During peak times it may take up to 3 month lead time. An additional \$10.00 is applied to custom orders.
- Online orders are distributed from the Uniform Shop the next opening day of the shop. A postage charge will occur for all orders marked for delivery.
- Payments can be made by Cash, Credit Card or Debit Credit Cards only.
- Sales items are not refundable.

Prices Effective from 21-09-2020 and are subject to change without notice.



Merewether High School
Uniform 7-12



Merewether High School
Uniform 7-12



Merewether High School
Sports Uniform



Merewether High School
Bags and Accessories





	TERM 4 - Please note this is subject to change
	December
Tues 1st	Year 7 2021 Orientation Day
Wed 2nd	Year 12 Formal
Thurs 3rd	Year 7 Lifesaving
Fri 4th	Year 7 Lifesaving
Fri 11th	Year 10 Assembly - 9:15am* Year 9 Assembly - 11:15am*
Mon 14th	Year 8 Assembly - 9:15am* Year 7 Assembly - 11:15am*
Tues 15th	Presentation Assembly - 10:30am*
Wed 16th	Last Day of School

* Please note that parents/guardians are unable to attend this year's presentations. Events will be livestreamed. Information will be sent out prior to assemblies.