

Newsletter April 2025



IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELIZA





FROM THE PRINCIPAL

TRENT LOCKYER

Following events of this term, I have found myself reflecting on how we continue to achieve such amazing things. I believe the answer to be very simple, and it is because we are from York. Since I arrived in 2019 we have experienced floods, bushfires, a world pandemic and tragedy. Somehow, despite these challenges, we have become stronger.

We may not know everybody really well, but we respect that we all belong and that we are all different in some way. We own who we are and where we come from, we are proud that we come from York, and that we belong to Balladong Boodja. We have the courage to do what is right and what is needed when we are challenged, and we have kindness for our neighbour in their time of need.

Right now, many of us are hurting, and when we have faced hardship together, we emerge stronger, more connected, and more resilient. We remind ourselves that even in the worst of times, that respect, owning who we are, having courage and kindness make us all sparkle with love.

So, while tragedy can break our hearts, it cannot break the spirit of our community. And that is why, no matter what challenges come our way, I find comfort in knowing our community will always stand together, lifting each other up when it matters most. For this, I wish to thank the adults in our community, our parents, our staff and our friends, for your compassion and your actions. Thank you for the example you set.

But now I ask myself why do the adults do what they have been doing, and my conclusion is this, it's you, our children.

Children bring life to our community. Your laughter fills our streets, your curiosity keeps traditions alive, and your dreams shape what our community will become. When we invest in our children—through education, mentorship, and love—we are investing in the future of our entire community.

But children are not just the future; they are also the present. They inspire us to be better, to lead by example, so to create a world where they feel safe, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

We are a strong community because we value our children—not just as students in a classroom, but as voices that matter, as individuals who deserve to be heard and nurtured. So to you our children, we thank you for creating a cycle of growth, love, and strength that will last for generations. We are so proud of you for just being you. And I want you to remember that by being you, you are making us all better people. In these past few weeks, I have seen students comforting each other, primary and secondary alike, hugging their teachers, talking to adults about their feelings and paying respect when all they know is that others are hurting. You have far more strength and resilience than we give you credit for, particularly when we adults are struggling, and for this we are all so incredibly proud of you. Please join me in thanking the wonderful children of our community.

For all the strength and support our community offers to each other, there are always times when we need an extra helping hand; encouragement to reach out for help; another friendly face to share our worries with. Recent weeks have been filled with great loss and great love, and it's important for everyone here to know that there is more support out there if you need it. Whether it be a staff member, a parent or close friend, there is plenty of support available, and we will continue to provide this support for as long as it is needed. I'd also like to remind everyone that online resources and support lines are currently posted on Compass. Lean on your loved ones and continue to live your lives to the fullest.

Please, have a safe and restful Easter, and return to us safely, ready to achieve your own version of success, on-going improvement, and connection to our community.



We are **Respectful**

Respectful people are polite, they listen and make positive choices.

We **Own** our behaviour

People who own their behaviour are accountable for their actions.

We are **Courageous**

Being courageous is making positive choices in the face of challenges.

We are **Kind**

Being kind means that through our actions we show empathy for others.



KEY DATES



TERM 2	
APRIL	
28	Staff Development Day (Students not at School)
29	Term 2 Commences
MAY	
2	ANZAC Day Service (9.45am)
2	Rocky's Colour Fun Run (1.15pm)
5-16	OLNA Round 1
5-9	Brightpath Writing
12-16	Literacy Pro Assessments
16	Primary Assembly (Rm 26)
16	Careers Expo (Year 9 & 10)

We **R O C K**

FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAINS

ABI WOK & JOHN DONOVAN

**“Every small action
contributes to the bigger
picture of who we are ”**



As Term 1 comes to a close, it's been inspiring to reflect on all that we've achieved together over the past few months. Our school community has shown what it truly means to live by our ROCKY values – Respect, Owing our behaviour, Courage, and Kindness – as we navigated challenges and celebrated our many successes.

One of the biggest milestones this term was NAPLAN. For many of our Year 3, 5, 7, and 9 students, it was a test of more than just knowledge – it was a moment to demonstrate resilience, preparation, and courage. Whether you felt confident or nervous, every student who sat those exams showed determination. Thank you to our teachers for their unwavering support and to the students for approaching NAPLAN with maturity and focus. You made us proud!

Another highlight was Harmony Week, where we celebrated the rich diversity within our school. The events reminded us of the importance of kindness and respect in building a welcoming environment for everyone. From cultural dress days to shared lunches and classroom activities, it was heartwarming to see students connecting through their stories and traditions. It was a beautiful example of our ROCKY values in action.

As we head into Term 2, we encourage every student to strive for success – not just in academics, but in your growth as individuals and members of our school community. Let's continue to aim for ongoing improvement, support one another, and strengthen our connection to community. Whether you're setting new goals, lending a hand to someone in need, or simply showing up each day with a positive attitude, know that every small action contributes to the bigger picture of who we are and what we stand for.



Congratulations to the following students

CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE

Charlie Lucas

Jhett Evans

Ryan Reny

Jaiden McHugh

Samara Bovington

Miguel Cameron

Taylor Collins

Malikye Narkle

Olivia Johnson

Phoebe Wherrett

William Devlin

Jaxon McHugh

Paige Ferguson (x2)

John Donovan

Abigail Wok

Karis Rous

Shayla Mathews

Zoe Mackenzie

Olive Kainuku

Marnie Wallace

Etonche

van Emmerloot



Olive Wallace

Riley Guadagnin

Lucas Galbraith

Mackenzie Rous

Shiloh Mackay

Lauren Hooper

Casey Ritchie

Grace Hughes

Ella Saunders

Carter Cochran

George Boyle

Phoebe Wherrett

Sophie Rous

William Devlin

Murray Wallace

Charlie Wherrett

Marni Wallace

Lexie Finestone

Jaxon Hughes

Michael Gill

Karis Rous

Sophie Compton

Connor Morris

Dylan Cochran

Katie Spencer

Tayla Pyke

Joshua Jacobson

Lincoln May

Tanika Matthews

Haiden Sheridan

Taj Hennig-Edwards

John Donovan

Ella Saunders | NAPLAN



As a Year 5 student leader, I've learned a lot about the value of hard work and perseverance, especially during the NAPLAN testing. Even though the tests can feel challenging, I've realized that putting in our best effort and sticking with it—no matter what—really pays off.

By staying focused and pushing through, we can see how much we've learned and how far we've come. NAPLAN isn't just about getting the right answers—it's about showing what we know and doing our best. It's also a reminder that even when things get tough, we have the ability to keep going, stay positive, and keep learning.

I'm proud of everyone who worked so hard during the tests, and I know that this experience will help us grow in so many ways, both in school and in life!

Etonche VE | Interschool Swimming

As a Year 9 student leader, it was awesome to be part of the interschool swimming carnival in Beverley on March 27. The day was full of energy, friendly competition, and team spirit. It was great to see students from all year levels giving their best in the pool and cheering each other on from the sidelines. What made the day really special was how everyone showed our school's ROCKY values—Respect, Owning our Behaviour, Courage, and Kindness. Whether it was stepping up for an extra race, encouraging teammates, or representing our school with pride, we all supported each other and had a great time doing it.

In the Primary Championship York Wundig came 3rd and Wilura came 2nd. In the Secondary Championship York Wundig came 3rd and Wilura came 1st! It was a day to remember, and I'm proud of the way our school came together as a team!



Karis Rous | Students on HIT



As a student leader, I've seen how the school's High Impact Teaching approach is making a big difference in how we learn. One of the best things about it is how much more engaged we feel in class. Whether it's using whiteboards to work out problems, having pair-share discussions to bounce ideas around, or the consistent way our teachers present lessons, everything feels more interactive and interesting. The use of whiteboards helps us work through problems together, and we get instant feedback on our thinking. Pair-share discussions let us hear different perspectives, and we get a chance to explain our ideas to others, which helps us understand the material better. And with the consistent classroom routines and structures, we always know what to expect, which helps us stay focused and on track. Overall, these teaching strategies are helping us feel more confident and involved in our learning, and it's exciting to see how much we've all grown this year.

Jorja Carroll | York ROCKs

As a PBS student leader, I've really noticed the positive impact of our school's Positive Behaviour Support strategies. The focus on our ROCKY values—Respect, Owning our Behaviour, Courage, and Kindness—has made a huge difference in the way we interact with each other and approach our learning. By encouraging us to Respect ourselves and others, we've built a supportive and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued. The emphasis on Owning our Behaviour has helped us take responsibility for our actions, making our school community more positive and accountable. We've also seen how having Courage to speak up, try new things, and face challenges with a positive attitude boosts our confidence. And Kindness has become a key part of our daily interactions, making the school feel like a place where we genuinely care for each other. PBS has helped create a school culture where good behaviour is celebrated, and we all feel empowered to contribute in a meaningful way. It's been awesome to see how these values help us grow as individuals and as a community.

Haiden Sheridan | bstreetsmart

As Mackie faction leader, attending the RAC bstreetsmart event as part of the Emergency Service Cadet Keys for Life program was an eye-opening experience. The event gave us an opportunity to learn firsthand about road safety and the impact of unsafe driving. It was powerful to hear from emergency responders, witness real-life crash simulations, and take part in discussions about making smart, responsible decisions on the road. The event wasn't just about learning the risks; it was about understanding the responsibility we all have to keep ourselves and others safe. The Keys for Life program really highlighted how important it is to be aware, stay focused, and drive with caution when we start getting behind the wheel. It was a valuable experience that reinforced the importance of making informed choices, and I'm grateful for the chance to be part of such a life-changing program.



Izzy Hayes | Progress Reports

As a PBS student leader, I believe that Progress Reports are a powerful tool for helping us grow and improve throughout the year. These reports aren't just about grades—they show us where we're doing well and where we can make improvements. By looking at the feedback, we can take ownership of our learning and set clear goals for the future. The best part about Progress Reports is that they're not the end of the story. They help us reflect on our efforts and encourage us to keep working hard. Whether it's improving a specific skill or focusing on areas where we need more support, these reports guide us toward making real progress. It's all about using the feedback in a positive way—just like we do with our school's ROCKY values. We respect the feedback, own our actions, have the courage to improve, and show kindness to ourselves and others as we work together to achieve our goals.



Alanie Metcalf | Harmony Week

As a Aboriginal student representative, I feel really proud to be part of our school's Harmony Week celebrations. Harmony Week is all about celebrating the diversity of cultures and backgrounds in our community, and it's a time to reflect on how we can all live together in respect and peace. For me, being Aboriginal is an important part of who I am, and during Harmony Week, I get to share my culture with my classmates. It's great to see everyone learning about different traditions, languages, and stories, and it makes me feel like my culture is valued and respected. Harmony Week is a reminder that, no matter where we come from or what our backgrounds are, we all belong. It's about showing kindness, understanding, and respect for each other. I'm proud to be part of a school that celebrates our differences and brings us together as one community.



CULTURE OF COMMUNITY



Zara Boyle | Tell Them From Me!

As a Year 6 student leader, I believe the Tell Them From Me survey is really important for helping improve our school. This survey gives students, staff, and parents the chance to share their opinions and ideas about how things are going at school. It's a way for everyone to have a voice and make sure that we're all working together to create a better learning environment. By completing the survey, we can give feedback on things like how we're feeling in class, how teachers are supporting us, and what improvements could be made. This helps the school know what's working well and what might need some attention. It's also a great opportunity for us, as students, to feel involved in shaping our school experience. Our feedback can help make changes that improve how we learn, interact with others, and feel supported. The more people who fill out the survey, the more we can understand everyone's thoughts and create positive changes together!

Rocky's Colour Fun Run

York District High School's Parents and Community association will once again host Rocky's Colour Fun Run this year. Following the postponement due to thunderstorms, the new date is Friday 2 May (Week 1 Term 2).

P&Cs are very highly regarded in public schools for their organisation of fundraising and other benefits for the good of the school. P&Cs promote the interests of the school. They do this through:

- cooperation between parents, teachers, students and members of the community
- assisting in providing resources, facilities and amenities for the school
- fostering community interest in educational matters.





IN & AROUND OUR SCHOOL



R

WE ACTIVELY LISTEN &
FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS

WE ARE POLITE &
USE OUR MANNERS

O

WE MAKE POSITIVE CHOICES &
ARE ACCOUNTABLE

WE ARE HONEST &
ACT WITH INTEGRITY

C

WE CHALLENGE OURSELVES
TO BE OUR BEST

WE SEEK HELP WHEN NEEDED

K

WE ARE HELPFUL &
CONSIDERATE

WE ACCEPT & RESPECT
DIFFERENCES