



Bulli High School

BLACK DIAMOND LEARNING CENTRE

Ursula Rd,
Bulli NSW 2516

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Extension:

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PARENT INFORMATION 2020

Respect – Responsibility – Integrity

INTRODUCTION

The Black Diamond Learning Centre (BDLC) is a special education support Unit at Bulli High School which offers a learning and support environment specifically catering to students in Years 7-12 who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Students are referred for specialised support and placement by the Learning Support Team at their home schools. A regional placement panel determines which students are offered placement in the Centre at Bulli High School.

The BDLC occupies a purpose-built learning space within Bulli High School. Students are able to access mainstream classes if this is indicated by their progress and their individual learning plan.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Black Diamond Learning Centre (BDLC) is a place of learning. We embrace the idea that every student is an individual with unique and diverse needs that must be understood and supported. We respect and cater for diversity and adjust curriculum delivery accordingly. We cater for individual student needs to minimise barriers in education and maximise student achievement.

We do this by following and enacting the five elements that encompass the Department of Education “Every Student, Every School” Learning and Support Framework:

- Teaching and Learning
- Curriculum
- Teacher Quality
- Collaboration
- Accountability

Central to the ethos of the Black Diamond Learning Centre is teamwork. We believe that no student can reach their potential without strong support and communication links between students, staff, parents/carers, support agencies and the wider community. We will work with you to meet the needs of your child and we encourage you to work with us to assist them to reach their potential as they develop socially, emotionally and intellectually on their path to adulthood.

THE BLACK DIAMOND LEARNING CENTRE (BDLC) STAFF

The members of staff are:

Executive Staff

Chris Gregory- Principal, Figtree High School

Jenny Kennedy- Head Teacher (Relieving)

Teachers

Tony Andrews

Bethany Basman

Jason Carpini

Peta Josh

Lisa Treglown

School Learning Support Officers

Sharon Baker

Cathy Cropper

Elvi Dent

Tanya Sandy

SCHOOL HOURS

Members of staff are on duty from 8.50 am to 3.10 pm every school day and can be contacted via the school phone number by selecting extension #146.

THE BLACK DIAMOND LEARNING CENTRE (BDLC) LEARNING GOALS

The Black Diamond Learning Centre (BDLC) aims to give students an opportunity to:

- Achieve important social and academic outcomes while receiving individual academic and social skills support in a safe, consistent, structured school environment.
- Be supported in succeeding with their education in the Unit, and in some at mainstream classes as indicated by each student's individual education plan.
- Learn strategies to help them to manage their emotions and build important social skills which will assist them to become happy, successful, employable members of the community.
- Work out an achievable future plan which will put them on the road to a happy, successful life.
- Exit the Black Diamond Learning Centre (BDLC) to an appropriate . employment or community transition option.

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES

The program at the Black Diamond Learning Centre (BDLC) encourages students to actively participate in their time as a student at Bulli High School, to enjoy their learning and to plan for the future.

We offer BDLC students:

- A clear, assisted pathway to success in education and employment.
- Encouragement, support and recognition when students participate and achieve.
- Simple, explicit expectations for student participation and behaviour in the classroom.
- Recognition for good behaviour and learning choices that are clearly defined and achievable.

TRANSITION OPTIONS

Planning for each student's future and working towards that plan is an important part of the service we offer our students.

In NSW, all students must stay at school to complete Year 10 or until they are 17 years of age. Students younger than 17 years must be involved in education at school, TAFE or with a training organisation or engage in at least 25 hours of employment per week.

The Black Diamond Learning Centre (BDLC) offers students individual behaviour and learning support in order to achieve Year 10 and Year 12 credentials. Students may study a regular or Life Skills pattern of study or a combination of both options depending on individual student need. This pattern of study will be determined through careful consultation with students, staff, parents and carers. Staff from other involved agencies may also contribute to this decision.

We also help Stage 5 (Year 9 & 10) students and their parents plan for a continuation into Stage 6 or further training and/or employment in another setting.

ASSISTED SCHOOL TRAVEL PROGRAM

The BDLC can provide advice about applications for Assisted School Travel. It is important to note that assisted school travel is not automatically available to all students with disability. The Department of Education may approve assisted travel where a parent is unable to provide or arrange transport for the student. Students must also be unable to access regular school transport as a result of their disability or unable to travel independently.

It is also important to note that students accessing assisted school travel must be supervised by a parent or carer prior to school pick-up and after school drop-off, 15 minutes either side of the arranged transport time.

Parents are expected to contact their child's transport operator to notify of changes arrangements or student absences prior to morning pick-up. Contact numbers are provided for this purpose.

The Department of Education's Assisted School Travel Program liaises directly with parents regarding Assisted Travel appeals, queries or change transport arrangements.

ASTP Phone for General Enquiries: 1300 338 278

ATTENDANCE

Students attend roll call groups with their peers in the BDLC in their junior years. Consultation with parents and each individual student, students may join a mainstream roll call group from Years 9 onwards. This gives them an opportunity to socialise with other students in the school. Roll call begins at 8.50am and ends at 9.00am. Roll call teachers record student attendance each day.

Some students who need special support attend roll call in the BDLC. If your child will be absent and you wish to notify the school, you can call the Unit or leave a message for BDLC staff at the main office.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students in the BDLC are expected to wear the Bulli High School school uniform. Uniform requirements can be found in the *Information for Parents and Students* in the general enrolment information package.

MOBILE PHONES

Students are permitted to bring mobile phones to school however, they must be switched off and in the student's bag during the whole school day.

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLANS

Each student has an Individual Learning Plan. This includes:

- An individual learning plan
- A transition plan to help with planning for life after school
If necessary:
 - A behaviour support plan
 - An Assisted Travel Plan
 - A Health Care Plan if applicable

THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

All students at the BDLC have an individual program designed to meet their academic, social and transition goals. Students can study the following subjects up to Year 10:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Human Society Environment and Science
- Physical Education/ Health/Personal Development
- BDLC Electives (Visual Arts, Food Tech, Drama, Music)
- Individual student, they may access a range of other KLA options in mainstream classes.

SPORTS PROGRAM

The students participate in a weekly sports, leisure and recreation program. Students participate in weekly sport, either with their peers in the Unit or integrating with other students, with support from the BDLC staff. Student sport options depend upon the level of staff support available to support students.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

The School Counsellors are available to support students. Students wishing to speak to the counsellor should speak to a BDLC staff member for support in making an appointment with the counsellor. Parents and carers can make an appointment to see the counsellor by phoning the school.

STUDENT REPORTS

Semester reports are issued twice a year at the end of Terms 2 and 4. Other reports for agencies and health professionals are provided as necessary.

The BDLC staff are also participate in meetings and case conferences to support a holistic approach to each student's personal plan.

TRANSITION TO OTHER SETTINGS

Stage 5 and Beyond

After achieving the Higher School Certificate students may consider transition to the following options:

- Transition to apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship
- Transition to TAFE vocational courses
- Transition to work training with accredited training agencies
- Transition to supported and open employment
- Transition to Supported Learning Services
- Support to access Community options

Students are encouraged to think, plan and work for meeting goals in their schooling and future lives. They are encouraged to use the supports offered by the staff at the BDLC to assist them to move towards their future goals. They are also encouraged to realise that while the BDLC staff can help and support them, they must take personal responsibility for achieving these goals and for working on any barriers, which may be getting in their way.

Stage 6

There is extensive consultation in designing each Stage 6 student's individual pattern of study. Students may access standard curriculum, a Life Skills pattern of study or a combination of both. This may happen at Bulli High School, at TAFE or with external training agencies.

TEAMWORK

The staff at the BDLC believe that developing a positive plan, which includes all the agencies and stakeholders who work with the student and family, will best meet the needs of students. Therefore, we have close links with parents/carers and other agencies such as:

NSW Department of Education Transition Teacher
TAFE Illawarra
Community Training and Employment Providers
Bulli HS Careers Advisor
Health Professionals

PARENT AND CARER CONTACT WITH THE BDLC

Parents and carers are encouraged to maintain regular contact with the BDLC staff. We are very keen to build a close and supportive relationship with you during your child's time at Bulli High School. We are happy to help with problems, which may arise in each child's life. The staff and the School Counsellor are keen to provide support for parents should they need assistance.

The Head Teacher is contactable by phone or email. Phone contact is preferred as this enables a more efficient and personalised form of communication.