

Dear Parents/carers and students,

The NSW government is investing \$88.4 million in an initiative to provide every public high school in NSW with extra student support including a Student Support Officer. The Student Support Officer's work in a school as a non-teaching member as part of the school's wellbeing team. Student Support Officer's work within the school community is to enhance student wellbeing and learning outcomes in partnership with the school's wellbeing team, in particular HT Wellbeing Ms Voulla Kalogeropoulos and the school counselling service.

I have been employed as Burwood Girls High School's SSO beginning 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, this means I will be at school each day from 8.30am to 4pm. I have been involved with Burwood Girls High School since 2003 in various positions and most recently since 2012 as Burwood Girls High School, School Chaplain and Youth Worker through National School Chaplaincy Programme. I have over 20 years of experience working in the youth and community sector and in, most recently the Out of Home Care sector where my role was Future Planning Consultant supporting young people 15- 25 with their general living skills and leaving care plans.

My role as SSO is to provide individual and targeted wellbeing support and school-wide, wellbeing initiatives and programs. I will be working collaboratively with the wellbeing team at school and external agencies when needed. My role consists of but not limited to the following,

- to all students, programs and support such as anti- bullying, social skills development and health programs.
- some students, providing targeted support through group work, for example, targeted skill development or mentoring programs.
- a few student's, individual support for students, this could be checking in with a student through caring conversation or referring to appropriate support within the school setting or to an external agency.

Whilst we are under NSW Health Guidelines and learning from home, I will be at school each day and contactable for support if required. Now more ever it is important to be vigilant with your wellbeing whilst keeping on top of school tasks.

Ms Kalogeropoulos and the School's Wellbeing team would like to encourage you to seek support where needed. You are able to' contact us on 02 9747 3355.

Looking forward to meeting you all.



Liz Latham

Student Support Officer



Voulla Kalogeropoulos

HT Wellbeing