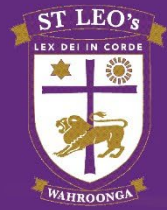


The LION ROARS

Fortnightly College News Bulletin



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 5 Term I, 2024

Principal's Message

Dear valued members of the St Leo's community,

The College Theme for 2024, selected by our student leaders is 'Change the World with Kindness'. As I have been reflecting on the first four weeks of the school year, I am encouraged by the kindness that is being shown by our community. I see this first-hand in the interactions between staff and students and in the way that our students encourage and support each other. In speaking with many parents of new students, I have regularly heard parents talk about the kindness, care and compassion shown to their daughters and sons. The Leo's community is certainly a special one of which we can all be proud.

*Loving God, I give thanks for Your word today.
Allow it to shape my life; and enliven my efforts to
put it into practice.*

*Bless my Lenten journey so that with Your help,
I may be able to turn to You with a change of heart
that opens up new pathways of prayer and friendship.
Give me the grace and wisdom to recognise Jesus as
my light and my life; and draw me more genuinely into
unity with Your people, the Church, so that we may all
be united in Your mission.*

Amen

Class of 2023 High Achievers Assembly

This week we will have the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2023 at our HSC High Achievers Assembly. There is much to celebrate with the class of 2023 achieving outstanding results and most of our 2023 Distinguished and Top Achievers will be in attendance.

Student Name	ATAR Score
TONY BAYNIE DUX	98.7
ZACHARY TANG PROXIME ACC-SSIT	97.85

Diocesan Staff Mass

Last Thursday evening, staff at the College joined over 500 colleagues from across the Diocese at the 38th Diocesan Schools Staff Mass.

Mrs Fiona Milkins was blessed and acknowledged as the new Assistant Principal (Student Achievement). All 11 of our new staff also received a special blessing from **Bishop Anthony Randazzo**. This Mass reminds us that we are all part of a broader community of 45 Catholic schools across the Diocese of Broken Bay.

College Open Evening & Expo

Planning is well underway for our Open Evening next month.

With an extensive waitlist for 2025 enrolments and final places being filled for 2026, we encourage all families with students currently in Year 2 - 4 to enrol now for 2027 onwards.

If you know of any families with primary-aged children considering St Leo's, particularly those from our Priority Feeder Schools, please invite them to our Open Evening on April 3 and pre-[register via our website](#).

St Leo's Catholic College Wahroonga

2024 OPEN EVENING
Wednesday 3 April
3.30-6.30pm

Scan for more info & to register!

Come along and find out everything St Leo's has to offer!

Opportunities

There has been an obvious renewed interest from students in our various co-curricular clubs and activities. As well as our 24 CAPA ensembles, our ongoing Youth Ministry and Social Justice activities, there are a growing number of revived and new groups students may find of interest - from Bible Study to Dungeons and Dragons. We encourage any interested students to make the most of these opportunities, to try something new and make new friendships through shared interests. (See the Clubs & Groups Calendar on p.6)

Thank you and have a great week.

Anthony Mahoney, Acting Principal

Assistant Principal's Report - Our Thriving Faith Community

Ash Wednesday Community Mass

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of our Lenten journey. As a College community, we celebrated Mass on this important date in the church's calendar together with students from OLOR Primary School.



Lent is a time of preparation for Easter: Forty days to prepare the heart and mind for the

whole point of the Christian experience - Jesus' death on Good Friday and Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Lent is a period to take time to be aware, to be mindful, to be present to who we are becoming.

For some, that's about giving something up; deciding to do it and then doing it. It's quite freeing. For others and for our students, it is about taking something up - making a small change that will have a big impact on who we are growing to be. For some, it's spending time with someone who needs time, it's giving up screen time to spend it doing some jobs around the house that would contribute to the family and build appreciation for what others do to make life good for us. For others still, it's giving to a charity to really change someone else's life, so they have more of a chance to be all God intends for them.

Interestingly, the forty-day period of Lent does not include Sundays. Sunday is traditionally a day of rest and celebration, not of penance. Those who have given up chocolate for Lent will be excited to hear that, I'm sure.

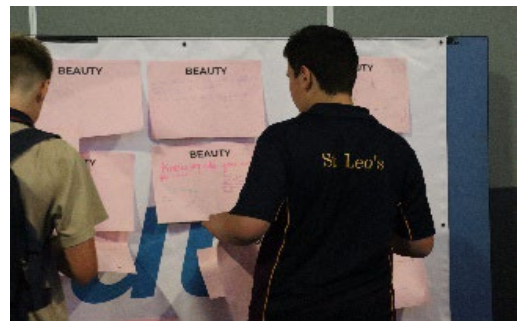
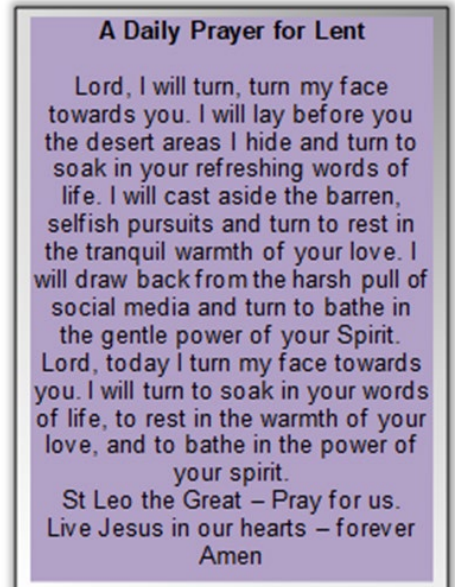
Year 7 Belong: Amazing Race of Faith

During Week 4, all Year 7 students from across the Broken Bay Diocese attended the Year 7 Belong: Amazing Race of Faith Day held at the Light of Christ Centre.



On a special day of fun, music, connection and faith formation, students explored what it means to attend a Catholic school in our Diocese. The day began with an engaging performance by a student band from the diocese.

Special guests at the event included our Bishop, the **Most Rev Anthony Randazzo** and Director of Schools, **Mr Danny Casey**.



Bishop Anthony spoke passionately about the importance and value of a faith based Catholic education, using the life of St Peter as an example.

Year 9-10 Red Earth Immersion Opportunity – 30 September to 3 October

St Leo's is resuming our Immersion program and will give students the chance to travel to a sacred Indigenous area of the Hawkesbury later this year. Students will have the rare opportunity to make real connections with Indigenous culture and history. Highlights of the trip include visiting ancient rock carvings, walking the land with Indigenous facilitators, learning about the geographical significance through the eyes of the local Indigenous community and learning about bush tucker and bush medicine.

During the immersion, students will learn about the rich culture of the land directly from Indigenous facilitators. Whether they are hiking to sacred sites, throwing a fishing line in the creek, or sharing stories around the campfire, the goal is always to facilitate personal connections and allow students to develop a first-hand understanding of the challenges, idiosyncrasies, and beauty of modern life in Indigenous communities.

Mr Patrick Brennan, Assistant Principal, Evangelisation & Catechesis

Assistant Principal's Report

It's hard to believe we have been back for four weeks already! It is wonderful to walk around the campus seeing our students engaged in learning at the College. This learning is not only in the classrooms but the many opportunities that are offered at the College. From sprint training to string ensemble, the atmosphere is always alive and exciting.

A couple of reminders:

Uniform

We are very proud of our appearance here at the College and we are committed to maintaining the highest uniform standard. Students would have noticed that there have been increased interactions regarding uniform standards and any items that are not permitted, are being asked to be removed. To ensure consistency for our students, the following has been clearly articulated several times and reinforced over the past couple of weeks.

All students:

- Chains/bracelets with religious symbols or medical information may be worn under the shirt.
- A watch can be worn.
- No rings
- One pair of earrings
- No nose piercings permitted.

We also ask that skirt and shorts lengths are monitored as the rolling of skirts and shorts is not permitted, and all shirts must be tucked in at all times.

For further information regarding the uniform requirements please click on the link below to view the St Leo's Catholic College's [Uniform and Grooming Policy](#) on our website, which is also outlined in the College Planners (diaries). As a community we are encouraged to work together to ensure that this standard is maintained, and we thank you for your assistance and support with this matter.



RED EARTH IMMERSION: KEY INFORMATION

Immersion Dates:

Mon 30 Sept to Thu 3 Oct 2024

For: Years 9-10

Cost: \$1985

Student Information Session:

Tuesday 12 March, Period 1

Parent Information Session

(online): Thursday 14 March,
6:15pm [Log On Details](#)

Ready for Learning



Thank you to the vast majority of students who have seamlessly transitioned to our new bell times this year. We are hearing feedback from teachers and students that the movement of mentor time has allowed us to hit the ground running and set the scene for learning from the moment students arrive.

However, there has been a rise in students coming to school with insufficiently charged devices, resulting in losing their battery power during the early stages of their daily learning. Consequently, they have to interrupt their classes to retrieve a spare iPad from the front office (if available). You can please assist in **ensuring that your child's device is fully charged each night before school.**

We ask that every student ensures they are organised and ready for the commencement of classes at 8:35am. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Mrs Fiona Milkins, Assistant Principal, Student Achievement

Spiritual Growth Domain

- **Year 11 Pastoral Day** - 14 March 2024

Some of the regular prayer activities that students are invited to attend include:

- **Friday Mass / Liturgy** - in the College Chapel on Fridays during Mentor and Recess. It has been wonderful to see over 30 students giving up their break time to gather in prayer. A talented group provides uplifting music for each celebration. When a priest is not available for Mass we celebrate a Liturgy of the Word. Parents are welcome to attend - sign in at Reception for a 10.40am start.
- **Wednesday Bible Study** - led by students in the Chapel on Wednesday during Mentor and Recess.
- **Rosary** - led by students in the Chapel on Mondays at Recess. A small group of dedicated students pray each week. Parents are invited as well, for a 10.50am start.

Academic Growth Domain

Parent Information Sessions Slides

Here are links to all the slide presentations from the Parent Information Sessions in Week 2:

- [Year 7 slides](#)
- [Year 8 slides](#)
- [Year 9 slides](#)
- [Year 10 slides](#)
- [Year 11 slides.](#)



Also, a final opportunity to add any remaining questions to our [FAQ document HERE](#).



Virtual Reality Presentation

TODAY - Wed 6 March

A reminder there is a Virtual Reality technology presentation by edgeVR in **BH1L1** on Wednesday 6 March 2024 at Recess as a taste of what might feature in our Robotics and Coding Club from Term 2.



Years 7 & 9 NAPLAN Preparation

NAPLAN is fast approaching and to prepare for this testing, students will need to ensure they have the appropriate **lockdown browser installed** on their device. There are different versions of the lockdown browser for different devices.

The downloads and user guides to help your student install these onto their devices is now available via the **'School Favourites'** tab (star icon) on Compass. In this folder, navigate to **'Parent Resources'** where you will find the folder **'Lockdown Browsers'**. This will contain all the lockdown browser instructions and downloads specific to each device. An email was sent earlier today (6 March) with further information.

Please ensure the appropriate lockdown browser has been installed on your student's device by the end of next week (23 Feb 2024) to enable them to complete the NAPLAN testing this term.

Thank you for your continued support.

St Leo's Community Tutoring

Every Thursday, the St Leo's Community Tutoring Program (CTP) assists our students who need that 'little extra help' to achieve their full potential through basic literacy or numeracy support.

Literacy and numeracy are vital ingredients to improve the outcomes of our students. Some students struggle in these areas. The CTP allows for one-on-one targeted intervention with each of these students. There is no charge for this tutoring program to take place. Sometimes students just need specific assistance in reading, comprehension, an aspect of numeracy, for example basic fractions or numbering, or just building up that student's confidence to tackle these areas in a systematic way.

All our tutors are volunteers and are from diverse backgrounds. They give up their valuable time as they want to see these students thrive and be the best they can. We are looking forward to watching these students grow in confidence throughout 2024.

If you are interested in becoming a St Leo's Community Tutor, please contact [Sarah Szacsvay](mailto:Sarah.Szacsvay@stleoschools.com.au) on 0421082909 to find out more.



Careers News



ST LEO'S CAREERS NEWS

Connecting you to your future options!



www.stleoscareers.com.au



In this week's [Careers Newsletter](#) read about:

- UNSW Doctor of Medicine Information Evening
- MedEntry UCAT Workshop for students applying for Medicine.
- UNSW Young Women in Engineering Pathway Program
- Australian National University (ANU) Early Entry Applications
- Work Experience Opportunities
- AIE Industry Experience Day
- Young Endeavour applications open now for 2024 Voyages.
- Australian Institute of Music – Performance holiday workshop.

Groups & Clubs

Below is a calendar of the current Co-Curricular groups and activities (other than CAPA – see below). They include Youth Ministry, Social Justice, academic and other general interest groups that are currently being held at St Leo's. There are still a few groups that are confirming commencement dates and others will be starting in Term 2, so students should keep their eye out for this calendar around campus noticeboards and online for updates.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school				Maths Group All Years 7:30am BHG08	
Mentor/ Recess	Rosary Group All Years Recess, Chapel	Vinnies Conference Year 11 Recess, THG03	Bible Study All Years Ment/Recess, Chapel Spanish Club Years 7-8 Recess BHG04	Vinnies Service Medallion Years 8-9 Recess, THG03 Photography Club <u>WEEK A ONLY</u> - All Years Recess, Art Rooms	Maths Group All Years Recess, BHG08 Lego Club Years 7 & 8 Mentor/Recess, XCG04 Mass All Years Mentor/Recess, Chapel
Lunch		EarthCare Group All Years Lunch, THG03 Maths Group All Years Lunch, BHG08		Social Welfare Awareness Group All Years, THG03	
After school		Dungeons & Dragons All Years 3-4pm Library	Dungeons & Dragons All Years 3-4pm Library		

CAPA CO-CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES & PROGRAMS 2024					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	7:30-8:30am Lions Singers (MML02)	7:30-8:30am Lions Concert Band (MML03) 7:45-8:30am String Ensemble (MML02)	7:00-7:45am Pride Jazz (MML09) 7:45-8:30am Pride Hip Hop (MML09) ALTERNATE TIMES LATE START WEEK 6: 8:00am - 8:45am 8:45am - 9:30am	7:00-7:45am Lions Jazz B (TWG) 7:45-8:30am Cubs Dance (TWG) 7:45-8:30am St Leo's Company (MML09)	7:00-7:45am Lions Jazz A (MML09) 7:45-8:30am Lions Hip Hop (TWG)
Mentor/Recess (45mins)		Cubs Concert Band (MML03)		Photography Club (MMG02) <u>WEEK A ONLY</u> Guitar Ensemble (MML01)	Pride Drama Group (AHG02) Rock Band (MML03)
Lunch (30mins)	Cubs Singers (MML02)	Accordion Group (MML01)	Male Vocal Group (MML01)	Girls Rock Band (MML03)	Cubs Art Club (MMG02)
After School	3:05-4:00pm Lions Drama Club (AHG02)			3:05-4:00pm Cubs Drama Club (AHG02) 3:05-4:30pm Pride Pom (MML09)	
DRAMA	DANCE		MUSIC		ART
Cubs – Year 7 Lions – Years 8 + 9 Pride – Years 10–12	Cubs – Year 7 Lions – Years 8–12 Pride – Invitation Company – Invitation		Cubs – Year 7 Lions – Year 8–12 Pride – Invitation Specialty Groups		Cubs – Year 7 Photography – Years 7–12

[CLICK HERE: Live Link 2024 CAPA Co-curricular Timetable](#)

Cultural Growth Domain

Co-Curricular Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Program

Specialty Groups

A shoutout to our specialty groups that have flourished this week. String and Guitar ensemble, Photography Club and Rock Band have been smashing it these past two weeks. If you have relevant experience in playing Guitar or if you play any String instruments please join our ensembles, simply email Mrs Field if you are interested.

Welcome back to Mr Tavernese whose ensembles have kicked off for the year. We are always looking for enthusiastic musicians to learn Accordion and join Male Vocal Group - welcome to all. Please check the timetable and come along to these if you are interested.

Private Music Tuition

St Leo's also offers our Pride Lands Private Music Tuition Program. If you are interested in receiving private lessons to learn an instrument and/or vocals, please complete the following [expression of interest form](#). Students are welcome to join the program at any time throughout the year, including mid-term.

Co-Curricular Website & Contact Details

All information regarding our CAPA Co-Curricular Program is available via our [St Leo's Co-Curricular CAPA Website](#), we encourage you to bookmark this page.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to email [Mrs Field](#)

Term 1 Calendar – Key Dates

Note these scheduled dates **may be subject to change** throughout the year. Students and parents will be advised of changes as soon as possible via Compass notifications and/or in The Lion Roars newsletter.

Week	Date	Event
6-8	Wed 13 Mar – Mon 25 Mar	NAPLAN window
6	Wed 13 Mar	Parents in Partnership Meeting
6	Thu 14 Mar	Year 11 Pastoral Day
6	Thu 14 Mar, 6.15pm	Red Earth Parent Information Session (online)
8	Fri 29 Mar	Good Friday (no classes)
9	Sun 31 Mar	Easter Sunday
9	Mon 1 Apr	Easter Monday (no classes)
9	Tue 2 Apr	CSBB Curriculum Development Day (No classes for students)
9	Wed 3 Apr, 3.30-6.30pm	College Open Evening & Expo
10	Mon 8 Apr	Year 7-11 Interim Reports released to students and parents
10	Fri 12 Apr	Last day of Term I
1	Mon 29 Apr	Staff Development Day (No classes for students)
1	Tue 30 Apr	Term II commences for students

Physical Growth Domain

Representative Sports

CSBB Open & U/15 Touch Football

Last Tuesday the U/15 Girls and Open Girls Touch Football teams competed at the Catholic Schools Broken Bay championships at Nolan's Reserve. These championships double as both a teams event and an individual selection for the Broken Bay representative teams.

On the day, both teams played some great football, and it was evident that combinations developed throughout the day. The Open team fought hard in all games and scored a number of tries but the elusive victory was snatched away in the final minutes in most matches. The U/15 girls played well and came away with two wins, a draw, and a narrow loss in their four matches. Three girls, **Siobhan M** (Opens), **Kyrah M** (U/15) and **Makayla A** (U/15), were selected in the 'Possibles vs Probables' game at the end of the day. Kyrah and Makayla were also both named in the U/15 Girls Broken Bay side.

Last week, the U/15 Boys and Open Boys Touch Gala Day was postponed due to rain. A decision on a new date for the event will be made shortly. Due to this, a selection trial was held for the Broken Bay representative team with two boys, **Nicholas A** and **Alex M** (both Open Boys) selected to represent Broken Bay later this term.



Triathlon

As mentioned on social media, the NSW All Schools Triathlon was held at Penrith Regatta Centre last week. St Leo's had two junior girls' teams in the competition with both teams being relatively new to the sport.

On the day, the St Leo's Gold team (**Mia C**, **Lucy E**, and **Violet W**) finished 17th Overall and 5th in NSWCCC, while the St Leo's Purple Team (**Kalani L** & **Matilda T**) finished 31st Overall and 12th in NSWCCC. Congratulations to both teams on your exceptional efforts, and we will be looking at more teams in next year's event.

Baseball Success

Over the summer school holidays, the Australian Youth Baseball Championships were held in Sydney. **Ryan C** (Year 11) was part of the NSW team that went through the tournament undefeated. Away from the team success, Ryan has been announced in the U/16 Australian Baseball squad that will see him travel to the USA in September. They will play against a range of opposition and face current NCAA Division 1 teams that are viewed as future MLB draft picks. In regard to school baseball, Ryan has NSWCCC trials, and we look forward to hearing about his results.

Internal Sport Program

As outlined in the first edition of the Newsletter our internal sport program has kicked off and has seen all students in Year 7 – 10 participating in various activities during their sport time. Over the last few weeks Year 7 have had Cricket NSW running a clinic for them and next week this will also see students involved in Self-Defence classes at the College. Year 9 & 10 have been going offsite to various locations including Millennium Gym, CrossFit, Mini Golf and Laser Tag. If students have ideas for different sporting activities that we may be able to incorporate into these sessions, they are encouraged to speak to Mr Kember to discuss.

Upcoming Trials & Sport Information

A reminder to all students that all upcoming sporting trials and trainings are posted weekly on the **2024 St Leo's Sport Google Classroom page**. **If there are changes due to weather or other circumstances, this page is constantly updated.** The code for the page is **6q7xvvh**.

Over the coming weeks we will be having trials for Futsal and Soccer (boys & girls – all ages). If you have questions or external sporting success, please contact me via email: michael.kember@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Parent Engagement News

The following opportunities are currently available for parents and carers:

Item	When/Where	Details
<p>COLLEGE FAITH ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Weekly St Leo's Rosary & Mass</p>	<p>Rosary: Mondays 10.15am-10.45am</p> <p>Mass: Fri 10.35am-11.20pm</p> <p>Location: College Chapel (Please sign in at Reception)</p>	<p>All St Leo's parents are welcome to join us for Rosary and/or Mass in a spirit of faith and unity to strengthen the bonds that make our community so special.</p>
<p>CLICK TO PRAY RESOURCE</p>	<p>For Lent and Easter, 'Click To Pray' offers a free resource to pray deeply and grow in availability to the mission of Christ. Their 'Praying in Lent and Easter' resource, has prayers and meditations to pray with the Gospel, with Pope Francis' words and with The Way of the Heart, the spiritual foundation of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.</p>	<p>Access the resource here:</p> <p>Click To Pray</p>
<p>PARISH-RELATED ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>Hornsby Cathedral Stations of the Cross during Lent</p>	<p>Friday nights during Lent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OLOR Cathedral 7pm- 7.30pm - OLQOP Church 6.30pm - 7.30pm <p>All welcome</p>
	<p>Hornsby Cathedral Parish Youth Groups</p> <p>When: 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month during school term.</p> <p>Ages 8 to 11: 4:30pm - 6pm</p> <p>Ages 12 to 17: 6pm - 8:30pm</p> <p>Location: OLOR Cathedral, Nulty Room</p>	<p>Remaining term 1 Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3rd March - 17th March - 7th April
<p>MUMS TALK</p>	<p>Free talk on 'Dealing with bullies; compassion and strength training for your child'.</p> <p>When: Wed 13th March 7.30pm</p> <p>Location: Holy Name Church Wahroonga, sunroom</p>	<p>Join Prouille's Parent Engagement Coordinator, Jacqui Van de Velde as she offers a free talk on dealing with bullies.</p> <p>Tea and coffee available after the talk.</p>

Community Notices

Notice of Collection

Each year Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) is required to provide student residential addresses to the Australian Department of Education and Training (DET).

[Find out more HERE.](#)

Warning - Parking in the Wrong Direction


Parents and students please note that Council is receiving complaints about parents parking in Windarra Crescent in the wrong direction. It is illegal to park in the opposite direction to traffic flow.

Council Rangers are fully aware of the issues and have been issuing infringements.

WRONG DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

WHY IS IT ILLEGAL?

Parking in the wrong direction of travel is dangerous as the parked vehicle must travel on the wrong side of the road when departing. This manoeuvre exposes other road users to the risk of a head on collision.



- Not parallel park in direction of travel, penalty exceeds \$268.
- School Zone offence penalty exceeds \$344 and two Demerit Points

Parent Information Session – Supervising Learner Drivers

Teaching Learner drivers - The facts



As young people approach driving age it is important, they and their parents or carers are aware of what is ahead as a learner driver and how they achieve the 120 supervised driving hours in their logbook. As you may be aware, P-plate drivers are involved in more crashes than any other driving group (including learner drivers). Parents play a key role in guiding and promoting safe driving habits.

Hornsby Shire Council holds a virtual presentation via Microsoft TEAMS several times a year offering practical advice and information to parents/carers and supervising drivers on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers. The presentation includes information about:

- Understanding the Graduated Licensing Scheme and the current laws of L and P licence holders.
- Completing the *Learner driver logbook and App*.
- Understanding the benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.
- Supervising learner drivers.
- Young Driver Issues.
- The Safer Drivers Course.
- Lots of tips to help the supervising driver and learner.

The next presentation council is offering is on **Wednesday 27 March 6pm – 7.30pm**.

For bookings visit: <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/learnerdrivers>. COST IS FREE



Living & thriving with ADHD

Free webinar | Parents & teachers
26th March (1pm) | 27th March (6:30pm)

Understand what ADHD is and its **causes and effects**
Dispel the most **common myths**
Learn simple and effective **non-drug** strategies
Discover the benefits and limits of **stimulant medication**
Find out how best to **support young people** who have ADHD



Register for free:
<https://bit.ly/42Q8lpM>



“Outstanding presentation. I learned so much about ADHD that I didn’t know” Gavin Wendt, parent

*“Presenter was amazing. 5/5” - Anna Michalopolous, Head of Department
School Counselling & Student Health, MLC Sydney*