



BEHIND THE ACTION

Welcome back to the new school year!

KEY DATES

TERM ONE STARTS
1/2-6/2

TERM ONE ENDS
12/4

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TOM'S CHECK IN

An exciting new school year has just begun!

A massive welcome back to all students and families who are returning to another year with BTA - and a warm welcome to all of our new ones! We are so excited to have you here with us.

We cannot wait to resume tutoring and see all of you around the offices again to start the year off strong!

We're looking forward to supporting you as "Better Tuition Academy" this year.

Tom Downie, Co-Founder





COMPANY REBRAND

Dear BTA Community,

I am thrilled to shared some exciting news with you and that is, after much consideration and considerable growth, we will be rebranding the company from "Belrose Tutoring Academy" to "Better Tuition Academy."

The primary reason for this change is our remarkable expansion well-beyond both Belrose and our wildest dreams back in **2015**. BTA started from humble beginnings in one upstairs office at Belrose Village Shops, now known to our tutors as "Office 1," which was decked out in the finest mismatched furniture we could find in council clean up piles on the streets, paired with the best textbooks we could afford from garage sales or Lifeline book fairs - and there sure weren't any iPads!

Since then, we have come a long way.

In 2019 came our beautiful Forestville academy which made our services more accessible to students across the Forest area.

In 2020, we ventured further North along the beaches and opened our biggest academy yet in Mona Vale, and committed to the "Belrose Tutoring Academy" name for the final time. Forestville and Mona Vale are sort of near Belrose... right?

After improving and upgrading our services, it is time for the next steps for our business.

With the opening of our two brand new academies in Brookvale and Gordon, our services continue to be more accessible across the North of Sydney. Our new Brookvale academy is a 2-minute walk from Warringah Mall bus stop on Roger St and our new Gordon academy is a 30 second walk from Gordon train station. Both of these academies have been taking enrolments since last year and are scheduled to have their first lessons running from the 5th of February 2024.

Unlike tutoring franchises, our experienced management team hires, trains and internally manages all of our academies and tutors. This ensures we're able to maintain the **high-quality of service** that you have come to know and trust from the BTA team no matter where your child is getting lessons.

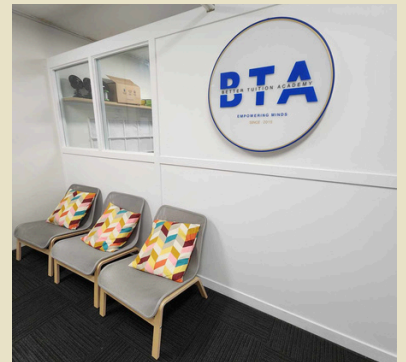
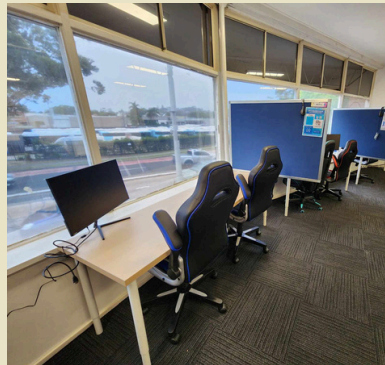
As we transition to our new brand identity and into our new locations, you can expect the same level of service. Without dropping too many puns, we hope to live up to our name and get even better.



NEW ACADEMIES!



Pictured above is the entrance to BTA's Brookvale academy, located up the stairs in Suite 2.



With our new Brookvale and Gordon academies, we are so excited to be extending our services further into North Sydney and supporting even more students and families.

Have a sneak peak at the new **Brookvale academy** in the pictures *above* and the new **Gordon academy** on the *next page*!

**TERM 1
NEW ACADEMY
DEAL**

**50%
OFF**

Do you know anybody looking for tutoring in Gordon or Brookvale?

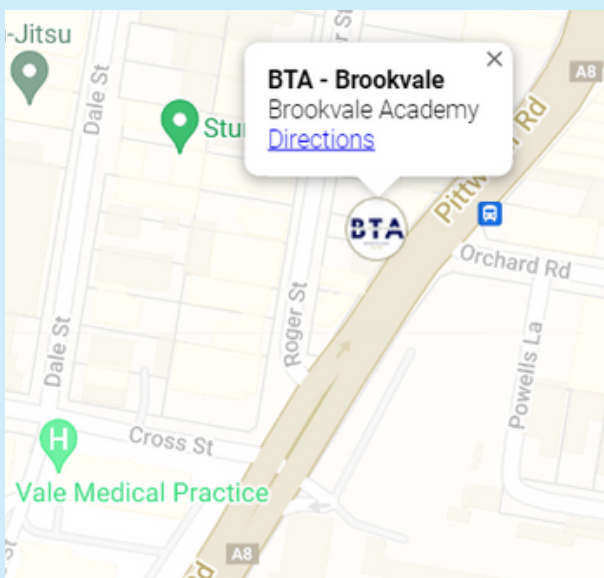
New customers are being given an opening special of **50% off** when they book in for lessons at our **new academies** throughout *all* of **Term 1**.

We're looking forward to seeing some new faces around the academies!

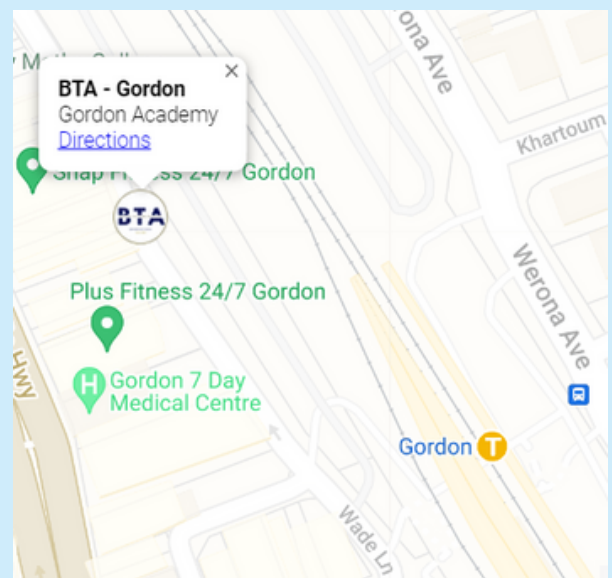
NEW ACADEMIES!



Pictured above is the welcoming waiting area in our Gordon Academy. We can't wait to see you here!



Our Brookvale academy is conveniently located opposite Warringah mall, near the main bus stop on Pittwater Road.



Our Gordon academy is conveniently located right near the train station, with free parking available on Wade Lane.

NEW TUTORS!

We listened, heard and understood that our customers needed the **best tutors**, so we developed **BTA's Induction Training Program** which puts all of our new tutors through significant training prior to commencing lessons for our business.

This training includes:

- Child safety procedures and our child safety policy
- Communication skills
- Teaching effective lessons
- Understanding neurodiversity and so much more!

This program enhances the incredible natural and academic talent that our amazing tutors possess. This year we welcomed **28** new tutors!

TUTOR PROFILES

We pride ourselves on ensuring that our experienced tutors deliver the highest quality lessons.

Each and every team member is a talented individual that brings with them a unique perspective along with a volume of experience and a wealth of knowledge.

You can find your child's tutor and read about them on the [BTA website](https://thebta.au).

Meet the BTA Team



Blake Coffey
Private Tutor
English & Maths
Belrose Tutor, Forestville Tutor & Online Tutor

He / Him



Athena Liang
Private Tutor
Maths & Ancient & Modern History
Belrose Tutor, Forestville Tutor & Online Tutor



Keanna Cifuentes
Private Tutor
English & Maths & Economics
Belrose Tutor, Forestville Tutor & Online Tutor

She / Her



Liam Murray
Private Tutor
Maths
Mona Vale Tutor & Online Tutor



Ebba Horvath
Private Tutor
Maths, Physics & Biology
Belrose Tutor, Forestville Tutor & Online Tutor



Alana Mansfield
Private Tutor
English & Maths
Belrose Tutor, Forestville Tutor & Online Tutor

NEW USER ACCOUNTS

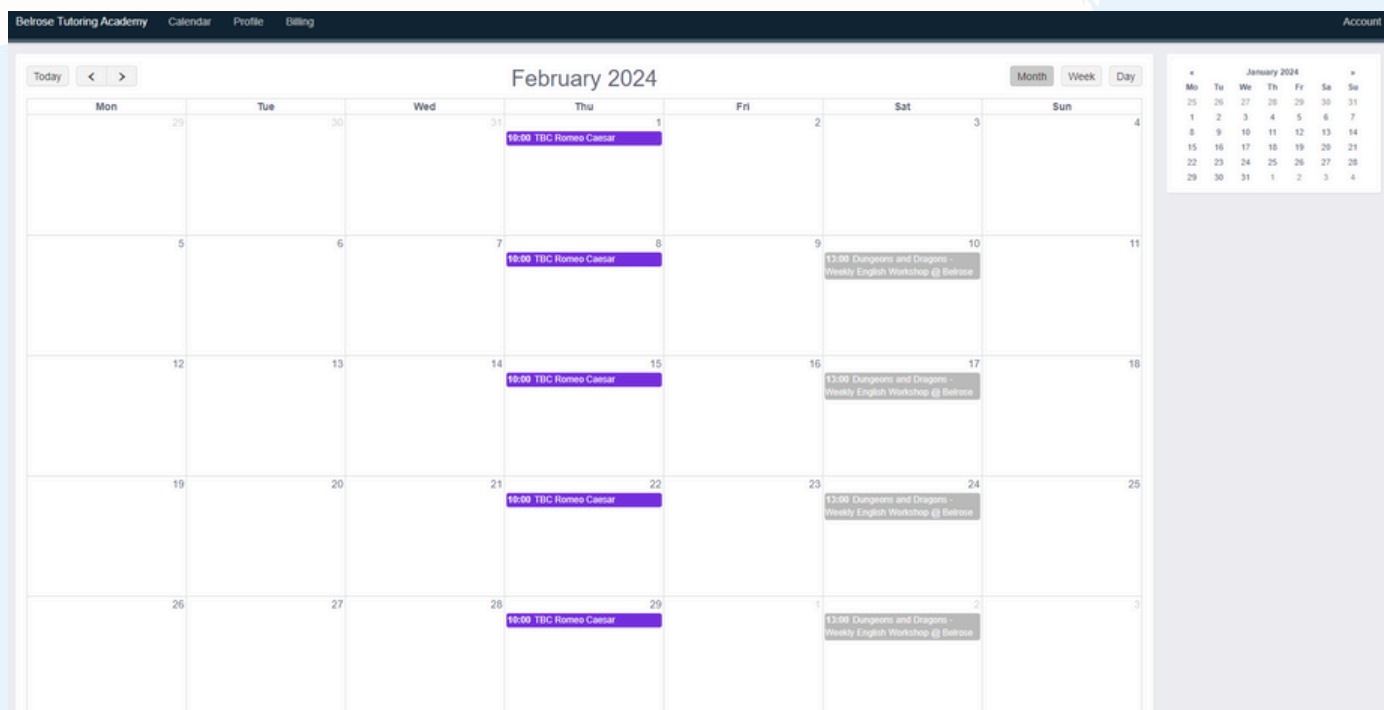
Recently, you would have received an email from BTA prompting you to confirm your account. Rest assured, this was not spam!

We have listened, heard and understood that our customers need **convenience** and **value**, so we have developed user accounts which are going to be accessible to all BTA customers.

From your user account, you will be able to:

- See and edit all upcoming lessons (as seen in the example calendar provided below)
- Review lesson notes
- See our recommended resources
- Access payment information and more.

We understand that you're busy and things need to be easy, well, rest assured, we won't rest on our laurels and will soon be announcing further improvements across our business. We've got to where we are today by listening to our customers and staff, so please don't hesitate to let us know how we can get better.



| February 2024 | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|------------------------------|-----|--|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 10:00 TBC Romeo Caesar | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 10:00 TBC Romeo Caesar | 9 | 10 12:00 Dungeons and Dragons - Weekly English Workshop @ Belrose | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 10:00 TBC Romeo Caesar | 16 | 17 12:00 Dungeons and Dragons - Weekly English Workshop @ Belrose | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 10:00 TBC Romeo Caesar | 23 | 24 12:00 Dungeons and Dragons - Weekly English Workshop @ Belrose | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 10:00 TBC Romeo Caesar | 1 | 2 12:00 Dungeons and Dragons - Weekly English Workshop @ Belrose | 3 |

| January 2024 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

BACK TO SCHOOL

The beginning of a new school year marks a fresh start for students, teachers, and families. It is a time of anticipation and excitement, as everyone prepares to embrace the boundless opportunities that lie ahead.

At BTA, we aim to support students with their subject specific skills, but also broader study skills, such as how they can best prepare for a new school year to maximise their learning and minimise their stress. Building sustainable and healthy habits is the best way to ensure long term and consistent success, especially at school where your mind is always busy.

Here are our best tips and tricks for starting a new year in both primary and high school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parents, if your child is starting a new year in primary school, it can be incredibly overwhelming! By following the steps below, you can help support and nurture your child's learning and development.

1. **Set specific and attainable goals:** Work with your children to determine what they want to achieve this school year. Help them break long-term goals down into smaller goals that they can see themselves achieving.
2. **Set expectations:** Be clear with your kids about what is expected of them, and *why*, and start to give them space to self regulate and make their own choices. This will teach crucial time management skills that are essential for high school.
3. **Set up a study area:** Make study time more effective by creating a distraction-free zone away from TVs, tablets, and phones. Be sure this area is stocked with necessary supplies like pens, paper, markers, scissors, etc.

HIGH SCHOOL

If you, or your child, are starting a new year in high school, here are our best tips to make the most of it!

1. **Develop a consistent schedule:** Routine is one of the best ways to form healthy and consistent habits, as well as grow crucial skills like task and time management. Consider booking your child in for one of our ***Organisational, Note-taking and Study Skills Sessions*** to help them build a strong foundation for their habits.
2. **Open communication:** Make sure that you are fostering relationships where you can communicate openly. Speak up if you need help, reach out for support, and try to get on top of something before it becomes too much.
3. **Self Care:** It is incredibly important to take care of your body and mind no matter where you are in life. Make sure to prioritise your health and wellbeing and learn to create a study schedule and routine that works for you and your mind.

NAPLAN 2024

NAPLAN, or the National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy, is a standardised test made to assess schools effectiveness in their teaching as well as ensuring students are meeting minimum standards. The NAPLAN is held in **Years, 3, 5, 7 and 9**, and **as of 2016, students must reach a Band 8 in all of their Year 9 NAPLAN papers to be eligible for the HSC.**

The Year 3 NAPLAN tests are the first time parents are able to see how their child is comparing against their peers both from within the school and against the national average. Going forward in years 5, 7 and 9, you will be able to compare each year's results to see the progress your child is making under the headings assessed in NAPLAN, that is reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy.

KEY DATES FOR NAPLAN:

**WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH -
MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024.**

PREPARATION TIPS

NAPLAN is a **skill driven exam**, meaning that it tests students on their application of literacy and numeracy skills in the form of multiple choice, reading and written responses.

The best way to prepare for the NAPLAN is to do **past papers** in order to test your skills against the kinds of questions that they're likely to ask! It is particularly useful to answer questions **under timed conditions**.

At BTA, as with any specialised and targeted one-on-one tuition, **tutoring for NAPLAN can be super useful** particularly when the focus is on familiarising students with the set-out of the NAPLAN test as well as teach students about proper examination technique.

Further, **tutoring can be used to target specific target areas identified in your child's NAPLAN results**, ensuring your child feels confident in the years ahead.

THE YEAR 9 NAPLAN

In the Year 9 NAPLAN, students must achieve a Band 8 in literacy and numeracy in order to receive their HSC.

If you don't achieve a Band 8 in these assessments, students will be able to access online literacy and numeracy tests **twice a year** up until their HSC, and as long as they pass one of these, they're good to go!

If you don't achieve a Band 8 by Year 12, you still sit the HSC exams as normal, but only receive a Record of School Achievement, and then have 5 years to meet the minimum standard and receive the your official Higher School Certificate.

HOW DO SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS USE NAPLAN RESULTS?

Data collected from the NAPLAN examinations can be used by schools and teachers to compare their students to a wider group across Australia, or even, compare their students to similar students in their local demographic. Further, the results can identify students who may require additional support, ensuring no student is left behind.

Overall, the results may be best used by schools to compare their own learning programs and systems year-on-year. More specifically, schools can use these results to identify strengths and weaknesses and develop academic goals for the years ahead.

HSC STUDY GUIDES

Some of our best and brightest tutors have been hard at work over the past few terms in creating high-quality **HSC Study Guides** for both BTA students and students all around Australia.

With **half-yearly exams** rapidly approaching for many HSC students at the end of Term 1, our study guides provide a useful and comprehensive overview of only the *most critical* textual analysis.

That's right - we've culled out all of the confusing information that student's don't need. No more agonising over what context is relevant, and which themes are most important! No more wasting *time* - a precious resource during the HSC.

Each study guide is equipped with **three exemplar essays** written by our own tutors under timed conditions. So, not only will these study guides teach you what *actually* matters about these texts, but it demonstrates exactly how to apply this knowledge at a **high level**.

PURCHASE BELOW

And use the coupon code to get each guide for just \$10!

BTA EASY ESSAY 10

Click [here](#) to browse our available guides.

QUOTE BANK

Stuck for quotes? Inspired by the exemplar essays and looking to push your analysis with some new examples? The below Quote Bank is full of different examples from Billy Elliot, with techniques, analysis, as well as rubric links to help prompt your essay writing.

| Quote | Technique | Analysis | Rubric Link |
|---|--|--|--|
| Bus scene (22:52) | Diegetic sound of shouting, close up shots | The anger of the community against the police is revealed, as well as their efforts to fight for what they believe in. | Collective experiences, motivations, behaviour, igniting new ideas |
| Billy angrily dances through the streets (58:27) | Non-diegetic sound, long shots, body language/ facial expression | Billy angrily dances in defiance of gender stereotypes. | Individual and collective experiences, motivation, behaviour, qualities, emotions, challenging assumptions |
| Billy performs in swan lake (end) | Costuming, lighting, diegetic sound, close up shots | The capacity for personal growth through the pursuit of creativity/ overcoming of adversity. | Individual experience, motivation, emotions, qualities, challenging assumptions |
| "Just because I like ballet doesn't mean I'm a poof" | Slur, tone | Here Billy's own internalisation of toxic rhetoric is highlighted, communicating the power that collective experiences and beliefs have upon individual experiences. | Individual experience, motivation, emotions, qualities, challenging assumptions |
| "All right for your Nana. For girls. No, not for lads, Billy. Lads do football...or boxing...or wrestling. Not friggin' ballet" | Tone, slang, low modality language, listing | Jackie's statement here highlights the restriction that gender expectations and a strict gender binary places upon individuals, creating a sense of claustrophobia within one's sense of self. | Individual and collective experiences, emotions, challenging assumptions |

Essay 1

Writing an A Range essay can seem impossible, with the elusive 20/20 a far away dream. As English is often an entirely subjective subject with no inherent 'correct' answer, students may struggle to identify how to improve their work. We find that one of the best ways to rapidly improve is to read other peoples work and observe what has worked for them, looking for interesting lines of analysis, new vocab words, and the structure of the essay itself. As you read along, pay close attention to the annotations - these outline exactly what this essay does well that makes it a 20/20. A common misconception is that making mistakes 'loses' you marks in the HSC, but rather, you start with 0 marks and gain them for each thing you do well, thus, these annotations should help guide your own progress goals.

After reading this essay, try choosing 2-3 things that you like about it and then implementing these into your own work by taking 10 minutes or so to write an introduction or paragraph that focuses on these improvements. Doing this exercise even a few times will vastly improve your writing!

'Absolute power corrupts absolutely'. How has your text explored ways in which the human experience is defined by one's struggle with power?

Across history, humanity has always fallen victim to corruption, and literature has always emerged as a response. Arthur Miller's *Modern Tragedy* explores the nuanced, corrosive nature of power and the hold it can have over both individuals and society. *The Crucible* (1953) is a political allegory for the growing turmoil and unease across America in response to the Red Scare, that Miller reshaped into the Salem witch trials. He explores the relationship between the human condition and the struggle with absolute power in three unique ways: the corruption of it, the fight against it, and the inner conflict that emerges because of it.

Miller highlights the consequences of a theocratic system that holds absolute power over society, commenting that corruption is a natural part of the human experience. Salem, a dogmatic Puritan community, was allegorically used to reflect Miller's political concern against McCarthy's leadership in the 1950s. In Hathorne's admission that "postponement now speaks a floundering on my part: reprieve or pardon must cast doubt upon the guilt of them that died till now", the dramatic irony highlights the paradoxical nature of justice under theocratic power, where the purpose of law contradicts the reality of its application. The intention of this is to enlighten his audience to **HUAC's** flaws, as their lack of objectivity only helped to spread the nation-wide paranoia. Further reinforcing the brutality of absolute control in, "a person is either with this court or he must be counted against it, there be no road between", the metaphor exposes the complex position innocent individuals are placed in when faced with a corrupt system. Miller further expands on the

What Makes this a 'High Range' Essay?

- Incorporates macro concepts such as Modern Tragedy and allegory into the introduction
- Annotates the year that the text was published
- Embeds quotes to create an essay that reads clearly and fluidly, engaging the reader more
- Brings in techniques unique to form, highlighting an extremely in-depth understanding of the text on multiple levels
- Involves context

NEW SYLLABI

You may have been hearing some chatter recently about the *new syllabus* being introduced across both maths and English... What exactly does this mean though?

What does it mean for your child? What does it mean for their education?

Explore the key changes below:

Y3-10 ENGLISH

Across Year 3-10 English, the following changes are to be introduced:

- A much more significant focus on grammar, sentence structure and punctuation across both primary *and* high school to support foundational English skills.
- Ensuring the study of grammar is not left behind in primary school.
- Four key text types, instead of five, allowing teachers to approach each text type with much more depth. This includes extended prose, poetry, film, and drama.

Y3-10 MATHS

Across Year 3-10 mathematics, the following changes are to be introduced:

- A higher emphasis on sequencing and reasoning skills.
- A new '*core subjects*' structure in years 7 to 10 that will replace the 'tiered' maths levels of 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3. This is intended to better support and prepare students for HSC level mathematics.
- Primary teachers will be focusing on stronger and much deeper understandings of mathematical concepts with their students before introducing a new topic.

This new syllabus will be taught in all New South Wales schools from 2024.

AI USE AT BTA

Over the last few years, we have seen a massive boost in AI gaining prevalence in all areas of our lives, as well as its effectiveness in these areas as well. The rise of technology such as ChatGPT has called into question the value of its use in educational spaces, as well as how this can be done ethically, and without compromising students learning.

At BTA we are committed to staying on top of current technology and learning to work with it to maximise learning for our students, and as such we are now training all of our tutors in how to use AI in lessons to bolster students education, and to teach students how to best use these tools as well.

AI-powered tools like ChatGPT can be valuable assets in tutoring and education through 24/7 availability, adaptive assessments, enhanced collaboration, and data-driven insights. However, AI should complement, not replace, human educators, and a balanced approach leveraging the strengths of both AI and human educators is essential for an effective and personalised learning experience.

Here's how AI both **will** and **will not** be used at BTA.

At BTA, we **will** be teaching our tutors how to best use AI to maximise the learning students can achieve in lessons, specific through automating tasks that allow them to be even more hands on and practical. This may look like

- Creating spelling lists, questions, and texts from relevant prompts
- Essay structure and research assistance
- Creative writing prompts
- Critical Thinking exercises

How we *will* use AI

How we *won't* use AI

We understand that using technology like this is all about balance, and you can rest assured that BTA will not be centralising AI in lessons. We are committed to ensuring that the use of AI at BTA does not lead to any of the following, and are engaging in extensive training of our tutors to make sure these boundaries are clear:

- Lack of fact checking
- Over-reliance on AI
- Neglecting personalised instruction
- Ignoring the development of students' critical thinking skills

BTA ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Don't forget to check us out on **Tik Tok and Instagram** for more educational content! We're sharing all of our best tips and tricks for new Year 12 Students, as well as information on texts, memes, and discussions about school and the education system.

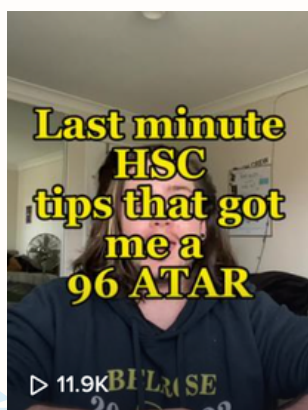
We love getting to share all of our knowledge online, and it'd be great to see more of the BTA community there! Drop a comment saying hi if you see us on your For You Page, or follow the QR links on the right to go straight to our pages.

With the HSC growing closer, we are helping all of the new Year 12 students get prepared for their last three terms by sharing all of our online resources, advice, and experiences over on the BTA TikTok.

Engaging with students from all over NSW, and even all over Australia, during the HSC over the past few years has been amazing – we are creating a community where students can come together to share their frustrations, questions, and successes, and seeing that flourish has been incredibly fulfilling.

If you have any questions about the HSC, English Texts, or school in general, head over to our TikTok and shoot us a message!

Follow the QR Codes below to see what's happening!





CONTACT US

Website: thebta.au

Email: contact@thebta.au

Phone: 1800 00 2085

Instagram: @btatutoring

Tik Tok: @btatutoring

Have any questions, suggestions, or feedback about the newsletter? We'd love to hear from you!

Send an email to contact@thebta.au with any thoughts or queries.



BETTER TUITION
ACADEMY

thebta.au