2015 Heralded an Important Era at Bonnyrigg High School

In November 2014 BHS put in an application for the establishment of a Confucius Classroom at our school. Confucius Classrooms are funded through the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban), China in collaboration with the NSW Department of Education and Communities as well as with Jiangsu Provincial Education Department. The NSW DEC Confucius Institute supports the development of Chinese language education and aims to strengthen educational cooperation and mutual understanding between China and New South Wales.

In February this year, we received the news that our application was successful thanks to the hard work of our principal Mr. Bryce. It is an exciting and proud moment for our school community as the competition was tough – there were a large number of applications from schools across NSW. BHS is one of the eight schools in NSW that will have Confucius Classroom joining the already existing seven Confucius Classrooms affiliated with the NSW DEC Confucius Institute bringing a total of 16 Confucius Classrooms in NSW.

On March 9, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the DEC head office in Bridge Street followed by the visit to China by 8 principals of the DEC Confucius Classrooms during the April school holiday. On June 18, BHS received a plaque at the official ceremony of the new Confucius Classrooms at Kensington PS. This special day signals the commencement of Confucius Classroom at BHS.

As part of the development of Confucius Classroom, we have a sister school from Jiangsu Province. Such a partnership will bring lots of benefits not only to our students of Chinese background but to the whole school community. Our students and staff members will be able to undertake a study tour of China/go on short term student/teacher exchange programs and forge a direct links between our students and students in China. Through the use of technology they will broaden their knowledge of Chinese language and culture so that they can thrive in a global environment and contribute to a world of cultural diversity and harmony. We will alternate the visit with our sister school visiting from China.

BHS will continue to work hard to promote the Confucius Classroom within our school/community. It is not an easy task but certainly a worthwhile one.

Jiangsu province China