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NORTHERN BEACHES SECONDARY COLLEGE STUDENTS DISCOVER DEMOCRACY AT THE PARLIAMENT OF NSW

Students from Northern Beaches Secondary College crossed the bridge to experience Australia's first parliament: The Parliament of NSW.

Legal Studies students from Northern Beaches Secondary College visited NSW Parliament House on Macquarie Street earlier this month.

The students immersed themselves in the real-world applications of their studies from *Part 1: The Legal System and Part II: The individual and the law* of the Legal Studies Syllabus. They explored the chambers where key debates and decisions occur and learnt about the complexities of lawmaking and the legal system.

The Hon. Greg Piper MP, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, was thrilled to welcome the students who hail from the Manly Electorate and highlighted the inclusivity of the Parliament's education programs, offering all students the opportunity to get involved in civics education regardless of their location.

"It was exciting that the students from Northern Beaches Secondary College had the opportunity to visit Parliament and be immersed in the process of democracy. I was delighted to hear they were joined by their local member, Mr James Griffin MP, to chat about local issues and initiatives," Mr Piper said.

The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, President of the NSW Legislative Council, expressed his admiration for the active engagement of young people with the workings of Parliament, calling it inspiring to witness the next generation directly participating in the democratic process by viewing question time and experiencing the Chambers. The students are now able to apply their experience at Parliament directly to their legal studies.

"The insightful and probing questions raised by the students served as a powerful reminder of why it is essential to cultivate a deep and lasting understanding of democracy from an early age," Mr Franklin said.

"These students represent the future leadership of New South Wales, and it is their curiosity, critical thinking and passion that will shape the state's future."

Mr James Griffin MP, Member for Manly, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to host local school students at Parliament.

"It was a wonderful privilege to have some of my local school students visit Parliament," Mr Griffin said.

"Their presence here is always a good reminder of the importance of the work we do, particularly to ensure we leave a good legacy for younger generations."

Rebecca Stuart HSIE teacher at Northern Beaches Secondary College echoed the student's excitement and engagement on the day.

"The students are extremely high achieving, and many go into the field of law. It is always a great day and provides them with practical knowledge about court and parliamentary processes," Ms Stuart said.

Interactive programs and learning resources are available online for students in regional areas across NSW in addition to the many programs and events held at NSW Parliament House in Sydney. In 2025, we're offering travel subsidies to help schools from regional, remote and rural areas.

The unique programs available to schools in 2025 at the Parliament of NSW include:

- Guided tours
- Legal studies workshops
- Interactive online programs
- A short film competition – Parli – Flicks; and
- Leadership events including a Secondary Student Leadership Program, Young Women's Seminar and the Constitutional Convention
- Coming soon – Aboriginal Studies and High School History programs.

Visit the [Parliament of NSW Education website](#) to find out more.



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