

# Tech Talk August 2020

## Sydney Technical High School



### FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome back from term break and I hope both parents as well as students were able to rest and recharge your batteries ready for a very productive Term.

I would like to officially and warmly welcome Ms Aphrodite Cox to Sydney Technical High School. Aphrodite has been placed at Sydney Tech as an additional Deputy Principal during Term 3. Aphrodite is an experienced Deputy with eight years experience in the role and the past appointments have been at boys high schools. She also has a Masters degree in Educational Leadership. I am delighted she will be assisting the school and I know she is excited to be here with us at Tech.



As I write this, staff have been working hard in focus groups striving to reach the school targets in delivering objectives of the current school plan. We will continue until year end, however in the meantime we will shortly enter a completely new school planning cycle. I can tell you the exciting new "Strategic Improvement Plan" will have at the heart our students and improvement across every classroom. School improvement is about a shared vision across our community, developing a culture of teaching and learning to support sustained student growth and attainment through engaging teaching and learning. As we develop our Strategic Improvement Plan there will be opportunities provided for our community to contribute and I will let you know.

I would like to share with you an example of "Manners Maketh Man" our school motto. Early this week a junior Tech student was being harassed by a group of youths whilst catching public transport, this event was spotted by a group of our seniors who sprung into action by assisting the junior. I can say the seniors created a protective shield and deescalated the situation quickly ensuring the safety of another member of Tech. This is an example where actions speak louder than words and I wish to thank all those involved.

Finally, I would like to wish our Year 12 cohort the best of luck as they enter into the Trial Examination Period.

**Steven So**  
Principal

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## DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT



### ACCURATE INFORMATION

Parents need to inform the school if there is a change in personal details, particularly address, phone and mobile numbers as well as email addresses. On numerous occasions we have tried to ring parents only to find that the number has been changed or disconnected. In an emergency this can be very frustrating. Additionally, parents get frustrated when they discover that emails containing important information such as semester reports or parent-teacher interviews have also not been delivered. Please contact the school directly whenever your contact circumstances change.

### SUBJECT SELECTION FOR YEARS 8, 10 AND 11

Students in Year 10 are well underway finalising the process of selecting their subjects for the senior school with the deadline for their online submission being Wednesday 12 August.

Year 8 students will be given information about electives for Year 9 during Term 3, with an Information Session for parents and students in Week 6. Students will have to submit their elective choices online by 1 September. More information will be provided closer to these dates.

Students in Year 11 will also receive additional information about other HSC options this term. In particular, this will be for subjects including Mathematics and English Extension II, as well as Extension History, Japanese and Music. Students looking to discontinue courses and reduce their units of study, will have more information and opportunities to also do this. Students and parents alike are encouraged to remind themselves of our eligibility benchmarks for these courses.

### YEAR 12 EXAMS AND BEYOND

The written Trial HSC exams begin on Monday 10 August and finish on Friday 28 August (weeks 4-6). Practical tasks for Visual Arts and Design and Technology continue in the weeks following. All Year 12 students return to regular lessons on Monday 31 August and are required to attend every lesson up to the end of third term (unless otherwise arranged for the completion of major works in Design and Technology, Visual Art and Music). Every lesson is important right up until Thursday 24 September as teachers are using this time to complete syllabuses and revise the courses. Information about the last day for Year 12 (breakfast, farewell assembly, luncheon), the HSC exam, misadventure appeals, signing out, scholarship applications etc will be issued at a special Year 12 meeting during Week 7.

### VISUAL ARTS AND MUSIC EXHIBITION

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions we have had to cancel our annual showcase for Year 12 HSC Music and Visual Art. We are looking at other ways to highlight our talented HSC students and we will provide information as it is available.

### UNIFORM

A reminder that students are expected to wear correct school uniform to school each day. If there is a reason a student cannot wear a particular item of uniform, they are to bring a note signed by a parent to the Head Teacher Administration or one of the Deputy Principals in the morning before Roll Call/READ. Blazers are compulsory in Terms 2 and 3 for the whole school.

If students need extra warmth, then the school jumper may be worn under the blazer. Hoodies are not acceptable under any circumstances.

Sports uniform is to be worn on Wednesdays (Sport Day) and black tracksuit pants are not acceptable.

Students in Year 12 who are not currently participating in school sport can wear full school uniform on Wednesdays, particularly if they have outgrown their sports uniform.

## SRC ELECTIONS

The election process for the 2021 SRC has begun. Nominations for Year 12 SRC 2021 opened Monday 3 August.

Information regarding other year groups will be provided via the Daily Notices and on the School Calendar.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

One or two days a week might not seem like much but...

If your son misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of school that equals...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about if your son is ten minutes late each day? Surely that won't have an affect?

If your son misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of school that equals...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly an entire year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
40 minutes per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years

If you want your son to be successful at school then, YES, attendance and punctuality certainly do matter!

**Kirk Grinham**  
Deputy Principal

**Diane Wilson**  
Deputy Principal

**Aphrodite Cox**  
Deputy Principal

# Intelligence V Persistence

“Will great intelligence or great persistence impact on your son’s success at school and into the future?”

In my research I found that overwhelmingly the characteristic of persistence was a staggering seven times more significant than intelligence as a determinant of a child’s achievement. Professor Charles Desforges from the University of Exeter in the UK states that persistence is not a trait we are born with but one that can be learned and that parents, rather than teachers, are the people most likely to impact on a child’s persistence.

Persistent adolescents do some or all of the following:

- They stick at task until the end.
- They set goals and work toward them.
- They generally focus on tasks and are not easily distracted.
  - They don’t let failure stop them.
- They are more likely to take risks as learners.

There are many ways you can encourage your child to persist and some of these I’m sure were practiced during our recent Isolation and home schooling. They all revolve around MODELLING, ENCOURAGEMENT and VOCABULARY.

As a parent think how you:

1. Model persistence on a daily basis so your son sees what persistence is
2. Actively foster and promote persistence so your son sees it is possible
3. Develop a vocabulary about persistence that your son hears routinely so that persistence becomes part of your son’s frame of reference.
4. Catch your son being persistent. Make a fuss when he sticks at a task regardless of his success so he knows that it is something you value.

Let’s remind every Tech student that in the words of Calvin Coolidge “Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence.”

A Cox  
Deputy Principal

Excursions and school functions have been cancelled due to current Department of Education (DoE) guidelines.

Dates and events could change at a moment's notice.

### **PAYMENTS DURING COVID-19**

As a result of COVID-19, online payments are preferable or credit card at the school office.

If cash is absolutely necessary, the correct money should be placed in an envelope with student's name, class and item for which payment is being made.

### **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

As a result of COVID-19, Excursions, Parent Partnership Dates, Second Hand Uniform Shop Dates, and School Functions have either been cancelled, postponed or are occurring in a different format, for example Zoom meetings.

Resumption of any events will be in line with State Government and Department of Education (DoE) guidelines.

Please note that the school calendar may not be totally up to date with some events.

## **STUDENT DROP OFF/PICK UP**

Due to the increased traffic around the school with many more parents dropping off and picking up their sons due to COVID-19, traffic conditions in Anderson Street have become too dangerous for students plus local residents have complained about the increased traffic. It has been decided that if you are dropping off your son in the morning and picking him up in the afternoon, then you must do so at Ethel Street ONLY.

Students will be directed out the Ethel Street Gates in the afternoon.

Please be aware of local residents in Ethel Street - do not park across driveways and be aware of their privacy.

## CAREERS REPORT



Due to Covid 19, Careers has been forced to cancel various events. One of these events was the primary source of information for parents regarding university applications. This was our University Admission Centre (UAC) presentation. This is the application process for students wishing to gain admission into university.

Parents and students of Year 12 should be contemplating the universities that they would like to attend and the five course preferences that they will include in their UAC application. The application and the application fee needs to be submitted and paid by 30 September. You then have access to the 'Check and Change' facility on the application. This allows you to alter your choices as many times as you like without any additional charge.

Also attached to the UAC application is the Schools Recommendation Scheme (UAC SRS) which is an early entry scheme and Educational Access Scheme (UAC EAS) which offers adjustment factors.

The UAC application is for universities in NSW and the ACT only. If your son is wishing to apply interstate they will be required to fill in a VTAC form for Victoria, QTAC for Queensland and so on.

Information regarding scholarships will be included in the weekly careers newsletter - The Oracle.

I am available to discuss UAC applications or any career related matter over the phone or via email.

Please call the school on 9587 5899

or

email - [jerry.mouzakis@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jerry.mouzakis@det.nsw.edu.au).

**Jerry Mouzakis**  
**Relieving Careers Adviser**

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

#### Term 3 - 2020

#### August

- 4 P&C Zoom Meeting
- 6/7/10 Year 10 Academic Adviser Interviews
- 10 Year 7 Vaccination Day #2
- 31 Year 8 - High Resolves

The following events clubs have resumed in their usual format.

- \* Running Club - Kempt Field Wednesday 7:30-8:30am
- \* Anime Club - Room 40 - Tuesday Lunchtime
- \* Debate Club - Monday and Tuesday - Common Room 3-4pm

**This calendar is a general guide. Sometimes event dates change unexpectedly. For a full up to date list of school activities please refer daily to the school calendar via the school intranet.**

The Creative Arts Faculty  
is proud to present

Sydney  
Technical  
High School



## 2020 HSC Performance Programs



Featuring the multi-talented and exceptionally gifted

Timothy Choong

Glenn Gao

Miguel Mariano

Tao Tao

Wezley Yiu

Andrew Zhang

Jeffrey Zhong

Jason Zhu

...performing selected HSC solo pieces

Sydney Technical High School Auditorium

Tuesday 1 September during lunchtime

Due to Covid-19 Restrictions the audience will be limited to  
Music Elective Students, Staff Members and Year 12 Students

**Steven So - Principal**

**Diane Wilson, Kirk Grinham and Aphrodite Cox - Deputy Principals**

## WELLBEING REPORT



Welcome back to Term 3. I hope all student and their families had a wonderful break over the school holiday period and are feeling refreshed and recharged after such challenging times that we have been through. This is a huge term for our Year 12 students as they are about to sit their Trial HSC exams. It can also be a time of high stress and anxiety for seniors so it is important that they know where they can access support. At school, all staff are responsible for wellbeing however we also have other staff members with specialised skills or responsibilities in this field. Counsellors, Year Advisers, Mentors, Transition Coordinators, Learning and Support teachers, a Careers Adviser and myself (Head Teacher Wellbeing) are all important contact personnel should students or parents wish to access support.

There are also some fantastic external support services available to students and their families through:

[www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

[www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)

[www.eheadspace.org.au](http://www.eheadspace.org.au)

[www.reachout.com](http://www.reachout.com)

[www.youthbeyondblue.com](http://www.youthbeyondblue.com)

<https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/>

## REPORTS

Term 3 is the halfway mark to another school year, one which we will never forget. With Year 11 students being the last year group to receive their reports, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those students who have shown improvement and given their personal best in Semester 1, especially during the remote learning phase last term. The Year Advisers have had conversations with each individual student about academic progress and performance with some students having had a separate interview and letter sent home to plan ways they can improve in each subject. Our top 20 achievers from each year group together with students who have demonstrated important efforts to improve will also be rewarded with a special lunch celebration, organised by their Year Adviser.

## EDUCATIONAL ACCESS SCHEME

Each year UAC offers a scheme known as the 'Educational Access Scheme' to those students wanting to apply for university who have experienced long term disadvantage at school in Year 11 and 12 for a minimum period of six months. A presentation to Year 12 students will be held in the Wellbeing Assembly, in Week 3, to inform students about the scheme as well as highlighting some new categories and changes for making an application online.

Year 12 students who require a school endorsed application in the form of an educational impact statement (EIS) will be told they have until Week 8, Term 3 to organise with the appropriate staff member to have this section completed so that a completed EIS can be returned in time for students to scan and upload their forms before Graduation day on 25 September 2020.

Please refer to the following link for further details about the EAS.

<https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants/scholarships-and-schemes/educational-access-schemes>



## ACADEMIC ADVISERS

The Year 10 Academic Adviser Interviews are to be held in Week 3 of Term 3 following on from the subject selection information presentation evening which was on Tuesday 28 July. It is a huge effort organising these interviews and my thanks go to the Senior Executive and Mr Mouzakis, our Careers Adviser, who coordinates this event each year. Year 10 students can now hopefully make a more conscious and informed decision about their senior subjects for 2021.

## MENS MENTAL HEALTH

Each year the Men's Health Information Resource Centre coordinate Men's Health Week during the month of June. This is always a timely reminder for our boys and the men in their lives to check in on their mental health. Many of us aren't very good at looking after our bodies or minds, and sometimes it can be easier to bottle everything up and throw it in a dark closet. Everyone's physical and mental health fluctuates during their life – we all have ups and downs, and it's okay to ask for help when you need it. Seeking help does not make you weak – it makes you responsible.

I have pulled together some resources from Men's Mental Health week at the end of last term that might be useful, so please feel free to share around:

- video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=827&v=2meiUFV\\_Slg&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=827&v=2meiUFV_Slg&feature=emb_logo)
- Men's Health statistics: <https://www.menshealthweek.org.au/health-info/why-mens-health>
- Western Sydney University Men's Health Information and Resource Centre: [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/mhirc/mens\\_health\\_information\\_and\\_resource\\_centre](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/mhirc/mens_health_information_and_resource_centre)
- Strong Mental Health as an NRL Player (James Tedesco) headcoach video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hc6nPlw\\_yCs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hc6nPlw_yCs)
- Strong Mental Health as a Gamer (Brandon Defina) headcoach video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LXTdeFEu4w>
- Strong Mental Health as an AFL Player (Tom Boyd) headcoach video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxPKWZ9nzol>
- Strong Mental Health as a Cricketer (Usman Khawaja) headcoach video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le6ts86sJxw>

- Strong Mental Health as a Footballer (Daniel Arzani) headcoach video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3HI9ITalpU>
- headspace Digital Services, accessible for young. males: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKg1S6p44I4>
- Resources for dads (or other parent/carer figures) speaking to their sons about mental fitness: <https://headspace.org.au/dads/?fbclid=IwAR0u3kHZXK0uvsqMFo7FB2AXA-CbpPMssar1vh9s9o-Etg2DfrcVraMrgUk>
- Blackdog Mental Health Tools and Apps: <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/resources-support/digital-tools-apps/>

**Nick Stokes**  
Wellbeing Head Teacher

**The staff and I appreciate your unfaltering support as we transition back into full operation but as you know we need to be vigilant in our response to the current health situation. If your son is not well it is important you keep him at home, follow health advice and inform the school.**

## P&C REPORT



## Pending government announcements P&C meetings will be ZOOM meetings until further notice

**The next ZOOM Meeting is on 4 August 2020  
at 7pm**

**All Parents Welcome to join the Meeting.**

### STHS AND SGGHS COMBINED P&C EVENING

Every year, I look forward to the combined P&C evening with St George Girls High School. Unfortunately I have to inform you all that due to COVID-19 we have to postpone the event and we hope to have this event later on in the year.

This event normally features a great topical keynote speaker and also provides a great opportunity to meet parents from our sister school. Hopefully we can work out a way to continue the tradition and host this combined P&C evening in 2020.

### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GRANT

I'm pleased to announce that STHS P&C has applied for and has been selected to be the recipient of the Community Volunteer Grant for 2020. The P&C will be working with the school to use this grant to update the kitchen facilities in the common room as well as purchasing a new BBQ for use at school and community events.

Let's hope that we will be able to host an event later this year where we can make use of these new facilities the grant has helped us to fund. We thank Linda Burney MP and her office for recommending us with the application of this grant.

### JUNE ONLINE P&C MEETING

We continued our Zoom P&C Meeting in June and will be hosting our P&C meetings on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

As much as I miss seeing everyone at the school, online meetings provide us the ability to continue to function as well as having a greater reach to those parents who live too far to attend in person.

I look forward to seeing you all 'virtually' in the August P&C Meeting.

### ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

A reminder that the STHS P&C is selling the new Entertainment Book. The Entertainment Book is now only available online and can be purchased and used anytime within a 12 month period.

You can purchase the digital version of the Entertainment Book directly via the Sydney Technical High School P&C purchasing website ([www.entbook.com.au/206m530](http://www.entbook.com.au/206m530)). Please share the link to your friends and family who might be interested in the Entertainment Book. Every purchase via the STHS page will help raise a bit more funds to support the students and teachers of STHS.

### CONTACTING THE P&C

Join us on the STHS Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/groups/sthspandc](http://www.facebook.com/groups/sthspandc)) - the email for contacting the P&C is [sydttechparents@gmail.com](mailto:sydttechparents@gmail.com) Please send your suggestions, queries etc to this email.

**Warren Mak**  
**P&C President**

# Debate Club



Lochie Bown (School Captain 2019) has been working online with the students - both Seniors and Juniors - and the work is based around training in logic, rebuttal, rhetoric and using facts and statistics to back up their arguments. We have been lucky to be able to maintain some online connection with the students as there are many keen debaters at the school. Term 3 will see Debate Club back in the Common Room on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3-4pm.

## Excellence in Mathematics

Congratulations to the following students who achieved at the top of their Mathematics courses in their Term 1 or Term 2 examinations. Letters of commendation have been sent home to these students and they have received a bronze merit award from the Mathematics Faculty.

### Term 1

Year 8: Araf Ahmed, Krish Chadha, Andriy Chan, Anthony Chen, Mir Hasan, Michael Hazali, Suhash Kabir, Labib Khan, Min Sok Kwon, Russell Liauw, Newton Ly, Felix Nguyen, Ayush Sitaula, Aidan Tang, Raymond Tran, Sean Van Ummersen, Damien Vu, Henry Wang, Justin Wilson and Apporva Yadav.

Year 10: Ian Baek, Nicholas Chatterton, James Choong, Neil Dadhich, Brian Dang, Ryan Kim, Albert Lee, Jonathan Liu, Danny Nguyen, Richard Quach and Randy Wu

### Term 2

Year 11 - Mathematics Advanced: Lawrence Bai, Justin Han, Daniel Jensen, Nathan Liu, Jason Nguyen, Wesley Wong, Jay Nishimura-Smirthwaite, Ryan Suhardjo, Anthony Tawdrous, Tan Thai and Liam Truong.

Year 11 - Mathematics Extension 1: Lawrence Bai, Damien Chau, Darren Chen, Zade Elhassan, Dennis Lai, Eric Lin, Ashar Nadeem, Huy Nguyen, Jason Nguyen, Raymond Pan, Anthony Tawdrous, Rion Ullah, Jimmy Wan and Wesley Wong.

Year 12 - Mathematics Advanced: Habib Khan, Muhammed Kumsuz, Darren Lau, Steven Le, Andy Li and Christopher Tang

Year 12 - Mathematics Extension 1: Jason Cho, Rithul Daniel, Alfred Dao, Glenn Gao, Mitchell Heaney, Matthew Lam, Darren Lau, Steven Le, Shaun Thach, Jad Yagan and William Zamany.

Year 12 - Mathematics Extension 2: Aaron Cuta, Mohan Das, Glenn Gao, Nathan Hartono, George Kekatos, Matthew Lam, Derek Liu, Sagar Pathania, Vishaal Ramia Haribabu, Richard Sun, Shaun Thach, Andrew Tran, Jad Yagan and William Zamany.

Keep up the fantastic work!

**Pamela Stergiou**  
**Mathematics Faculty**

# SRC WEEK RECAP:

The 2020 SRC Week definitely looked a little different as Covid-19 regulations meant that many of our beloved events could not run as they had in previous years. However, our infatigable SRC team pulled together and came up with an engaging week of activities and events to raise the school spirit and bring us together during these uncertain times.

## Monday - Family Feud

Family Feud was an enormous success. Mr Carter, Mr Werner, Ms Steel, Ms Bilton, Ms Hu and Mr Matthews battled against the “brightest” students of each grade in the fight for their lives... and bragging rights. After their enthusiastic answers the teachers pulled ahead before the students made a comeback and triumphed from the brink of defeat. The technical difficulties served as a thrilling Bloopers Reel. The Student Representative Council (SRC) prevailed and the game continued, bringing enjoyment to the masses and kicking off the highly-anticipated SRC week with a bang. Once uploaded to YouTube, hundreds of views poured in each day from the school community. A big thank you to the teachers for participating and congratulations to the victorious students:

Betselot Tesfaye- Year 12	Daniel Ajami- Year 9
Matthew Rispler- Year 11	Apporva Yadav - Year 8
Arnav Raina- Year 10	Adam Ajami- Year 7

Brought to you by the SRC Family Feud Team: Ghassan Adra, Araf Ahmed, Zachary Favorito, Nicholas Maratos, Tom McDougall, Daniel Nemani, Liam Truong, and Jason Zhu.

## Tuesday- Teacher Impersonation Competition and Krispy Kreme Donuts

An exciting first iteration of the teacher impersonation competition.

The entries that we received exceeded our expectations showing extreme enthusiasm with a variety of impersonations.

We operated on Tuesday of SRC week at both recess and lunch due to excessive demand. The overwhelming amount of entries rendered it difficult for us to decide on a winner. We could not sleep the night before from raw excitement. Emmanuel Takla, Year 12, was the ultimate victor. His food of choice to sell to the students was Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

We stuck with only the best, original glazed, 528 of them. They sold out within minutes at recess. There was only one choice to be made. Mr Grinham - our beloved, benevolent dictator - once again went above and beyond with his displayed need for speed, ensuring enough doughnuts for the boys at lunch with a generous injection of 270 doughnuts (one box of doughnuts was unaccounted for by Mr Grinham’s arrival back at school).

We raised a mouth-watering \$350, which will be reinvested back into the school for the improved wellbeing of the boys.

We look forward to improving this next year.

Brought to you by the SRC (former) Pizza Day Team: Ajey Aadarsh, Deon Argiratos, Jason Cho, Jordan Djamaan, Minol Jayawardana, George Kekatos, Salih Mujala, Eric Napper, Mohammad Rashid and Shadi Sayrafi.

## Thursday - 2020 Free Throw n’ Glow

Disclaimer: The recount may be dramatised.

Year 9-10 - Winner: Year 9

No dramatic moments, however Jordan Allen from Year 9 defeated Enoch Teoh from Year 10, by ONE free throw to win the “Year 9 and 10 Free Throw Champion” title.

Year 11-12 - Winner: Year 12

Chanson Lee made it to the finals for Year 11, after a hard battle with Goddy Dadson. The Year 12 champion was Michael Huang, a legend who was described to be “the best shooter in the school, so like, how could I even win?” – paraphrase from Chanson Lee.

Year 7-8 - CHAMPIONS of THE SCHOOL: Year 7

A psychological and physical battle, with unparalleled exchanges of disarming witticisms and powerful roasts. The competition was tight, on paper the champions were even, and they rose to the occasion with the might of the Greek Gods. Deon Argiratos would have been proud. Each year groups’ bonds were displayed in buckets and spades, and the strength of mateship grew stronger. In the end, both teams were worthy of victory, but Year 7 prevailed and the Year 8s were SMASHED. We cannot apply any more salt to the wound.

Callum Chu won for the Year 7. The Year 8 student who lost shall not be named in order to save his dignity (at least what is left of it).

Brought to you by the SRC (former) Super Smash Team: Glenn Gao, Shabih Haider, Alastair Ho, Daniel Jensen, Marco Lam, Ali Mourad, Muneel Naqvi, Huy Nguyen, Shaun Thach, Liam Truong and Thomas Zlatar.

## Friday - Talent Quest

This year the talent quest went online and was showcased to the whole school, in roll call rooms, on the last day of Term 2 to the whole school. We were honoured to have J Lo (Ms Haitidis), Cruella De Vil (Ms Noyes) and Lady Gaga (Ms Benjamin) as special guests in this year's talent quest. Along with Ajey Aadarsh as MC and Michael Huang who kept the tradition of the talent quest alive with the gong.

Tom McDougall took bragging honours this year, coming first place with his unique singing act, blowing the teacher judges away. His words "Xue Hua Piao Piao" continues to echo through the halls of Sydney Tech to this day, resonating in each and every Techies' hearts. In second place, Aaryan from Year 9 shocked the judges with his amazing guitar skills playing Hotel California. Last but not least, the 'Most Creative' award went to the piano duo, Jason Zhu and Wesley Yiu, who continue to push the boundaries of musical talent by playing the piano backwards and blindfolded. Congratulations to the SRC for keeping the spirit of the talent quest alive despite the pandemic.

Brought to you by the SRC Talent Quest Team: Dylan Alima, David Chew, Ambrose Konstantinidis, Miguel Mariano, Sandy Mititelu, Ezzekai Okoli, Emmanuel Takla and Gene Truong.

## COVID-19 Mufti Day

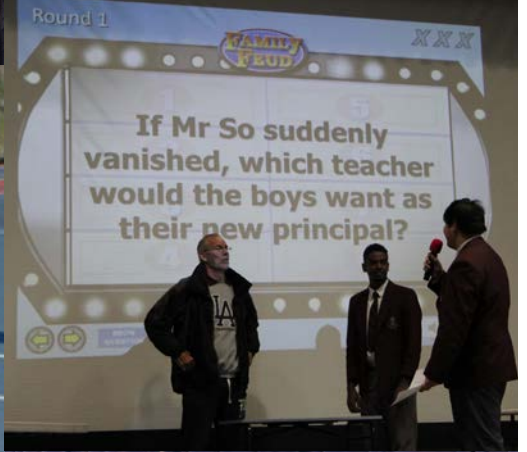
A mufti day was held on the Friday of SRC Week and the students successfully raised and donated money to the World Vision COVID-19 Relief Fund. As we all know, COVID has had a world-wide impact, and some have been affected more heavily than others. Knowing this, our school decided to play its part with a gold coin mufti day. The students actively dressed up in Emergency Services uniforms; to show their appreciation for the front line workers who have been working tirelessly each day. There were supermarket uniforms, doctors in PPE, high vis construction workers and we even spied a few teachers all suited up. We ended up raising a total of \$650 and we hope this will contribute towards helping individuals and families impacted by COVID-19.



Round 1		FEUD	
PDHPE	32	English	6
Tech	27	Creative Arts	5
Maths	10	Japanese	4
Social Science		History	3







# SCHOOL NOTICES

## OFFICE HOURS AND PAYMENTS

The School Office is open from 8:15am-3:15pm for enquiries.

**Payments by students** should only be made before school, between Period 1 and 2, at Recess and at Lunch. Payments will not be taken after the bell has gone at the end of lunch.

**Payments over the phone or at the front office** can only be made from 8:15am-1:45pm.

**Payments on Line** can be made using the link in your emailed statement or via the STHS website. If you would like an account statement sent to you please contact the office.

**Website Payments** - To make online payments, click on the 'online payment' link in the top right hand corner of the HOME page above the SEARCH box.

## CHANGE OF MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

If you have changed your mobile phone number, email or mailing address, please contact the school immediately so that we can update our records.

## SICK BAY AND YOUR SON

If you receive a phone call from the office informing you that your son is unwell and in sick bay, you must attend to this promptly and collect your son as soon as possible.

Your son cannot be left in sick bay for lengthy periods of time.

## ATTENTION PARENTS - SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE

If your child is absent from school, an explanation must be provided to the school **within seven school days** from the first day of any period of absence.

It is Departmental Policy that if your son needs to leave the school early for an appointment, then a letter must be brought to the school and it must be signed by one of the Deputy Principals before the start of the school day for leave to be granted.

**If you reply to an SMS about your son's absence, please note his name, class and reason for the absence on the SMS.**

## SCHOOL SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The Second Hand Uniform Shop is located in Vera's Cottage. The Second Hand Uniform Shop is run by volunteers. **Volunteers are needed - please contact the office with your name and phone number.**

During the school terms, the Second Hand Uniform Shop is open on the Second Tuesday of each calendar month, from 10:30am till noon. **Uniform shop will next be open on Tuesday 11 August.** Come along and grab a bargain. If you have any donations of used uniform items, please bring them in to the Office.

## VISITORS TO SCHOOL

Please be aware that it is a legal requirement for ALL visitors on school grounds during school hours to report to the School Administration Office for sign in and sign out.

This includes parents and caregivers.

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

A student in our school is currently receiving treatment which results in a lowered immune system. This means that the student is more prone to getting ill from infections. As the student is not contagious but has a chronic illness, it is important that he participates actively in the day to day school program without any major limitations. A major concern is that if this student develops measles, chicken pox, whooping cough or influenza, he could become seriously ill. It is important that we prevent this situation from occurring.

If your child has or may have measles or chicken pox, it is important that you:

1. Do not send them to school
2. Notify the School Principal as soon as possible.
3. Take them to your GP or medical centre to confirm diagnosis if possible.



### **PARENT/TEACHER CONTACT**

Any parent who needs to make contact with a Year Adviser or teacher should phone the school (9587 5899)  
or  
email the school (sydneytech-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) to arrange a phone call or face to face meeting time.

### **PICK UP/DROP OFF OF STUDENTS**

Parents picking up and dropping off their sons to and from school are to do so in **Ethel Street ONLY at the present time**. Please be careful to obey street signage. Please **do not** enter the staff carparks or school ground for this purpose.

### **BUILDING FUND**

Sydney Technical High School was relocated to the current site in Bexley from the city and the school opened in 1953. The building is very solid, but not very flexible and of course aspects of the school require constant upgrades.

The financial support of our parent and alumni community is critical in renovating school facilities through support of our Building Fund. Every donation to the fund over \$2 is tax deductible.

At the moment, the Building Fund will be paying for the upgrade to the junior boys toilets.

Recently, the Building Fund has renovated the senior toilets and there has been a major upgrade to the boys' change rooms, completed in 2018. We also renovated the meeting room, a venue much in demand for parent meetings, faculty seminars and professional learning workshops.

Can I urge you, on behalf of our school community, to consider contributing generously to this very worthwhile fund, as we all benefit, towards ensuring that our students learn in an environment which is fit for our purpose: OPTIMUM LEARNING!

### **LIBRARY FUND**

Want to be 'rich and famous'? Then make it a rule to read daily. Famous and very rich people like financier Warren Buffet, and Bill Gates read daily. A number of our students are avid readers and the 7-10 English reading program has given many students a great appetite for good books.

Our Library Fund gives parents and alumni the opportunity to donate to the Library. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

The fund recently enabled us to renovate the whole area to make it modern, user friendly and a place to hang out. Open every day at 8am, the Library Fund lets the school keep interesting, thought provoking and modern books available for our students. The school introduced the READ program in 2018. Every student and teacher are required to read for 20 minutes every morning.

Could I urge all parents to contribute generously to the Library Fund, so that we can keep up to date with the sorts of novels and series that your son enjoys, and put them on the path to becoming lifelong readers.

### **PAYMENTS TO THE BUILDING FUND AND LIBRARY FUND CAN BE MADE:**

- on line via the school website - Parent Online Payment (POP)
  - at the school office with cash, cheque or credit card
    - by phone using credit card

**Office hours for payments are 8:15am - 1:45pm**

## LIBRARY REPORT



## GREETINGS FROM THE CHARLES KINGSFORD SMITH LIBRARY

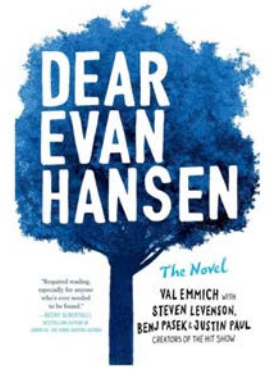
### LUNCH BUNCH BOOK CLUB

Our student-run book club met on 16 June to discuss Dear Evan Hansen, our Term 1 choice. With Covid-19 sending students home for remote learning, we set a new date. Boys were able to meet over



lunch in a seminar room in the library to discuss the popular and moving Dear Evan Hansen by Val Emmich, based on the smash hit musical of the same name.

Next term's book club choice is John Green's Looking For Alaska. The library has plenty of copies in stock so stop by and get your copy today.



### INTRA-SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT

The library will be hosting the annual search for Tech's Chess Champion. We've asked boys to sign up in Term 2 so that a draw can be created, ready for Term 3. The comp is held in the library every Tuesday at lunch. Thank you to Sumen Ahmed for agreeing to organise the weekly draw and to Deon Argiratos for assisting.



### ENGAGING DISPLAYS HELP STUDENTS GROW AS READERS

Pulling in reluctant readers by giving them a sense of comfort with something they already know is a stepping stone that we offer to enable students to move into more difficult books. Graphic novels are not just "comic books" like many parents remember but have moved into being sophisticated works of both art and literature. Respected authors such as Ta Naehsi Coates, Neil Gaiman and Alan Moore are writing for Marvel and DC as well as pursuing other writing projects. Our latest display asks students to get involved in the debate of who has the better characters, storylines, villains or redemption arcs?

To choose a side, we encourage students to read a few of each. Many have seen films but they argue strongly for one side or the other.

## WHAT KIND OF SOURCES SHOULD I BE USING TO DO THIS ESSAY/RESEARCH PROJECT?

Part of our role in the library is teaching students the best way to find accurate and reliable information. To evaluate sources, students are asked to use the CRAAP Test.

C - Currency: Is the source up to date? If not, does it matter for the purpose of the essay? Does new evidence differ?

R - Relevant: Does the information from the source relate to the question being asked?

A - Authority: What are the author's credentials that qualify him/her to write on the topic? The URL should reveal something about the source: .edu, .gov, .org, .net

Example: Medical advice from a doctor/researcher or an Instagram influencer?

A - Accuracy: Is the information from a trustworthy and reliable source, supported by evidence that has been peer reviewed? Is the language unbiased and free of emotion? Is it the truth or "false news"?

P - Purpose: What is the purpose of the article being used? To inform, to sell something, to persuade, to entertain? This will require you to evaluate if the view is objective and impartial or opinion/propaganda.

It is important for students, especially our seniors, to be able to access academic articles. Sites such as Google Scholar provide access to academic articles for a price. Students are encouraged to go to the NSW State Library website to join for free, which gives them access to thousands of academic journals, historical maps and archives, books, magazines and newspapers. These resources are all free to students who hold a library membership so sign up today! Students should also understand the validity of peer-reviewed articles in academic journals. This means that the writer, an academic studying or teaching at a university, researched a topic or did an experiment. To be published in an academic journal, there is a strenuous process for the writer in which other academics from around the world have to assess the validity of the writer's claims before the article can go to print so scientists judge the work and make sure the process was followed correctly. Students need to move from using Wikipedia, an online encyclopaedia which can be written by anyone without credentials, to using references that are more sophisticated and academic in nature.



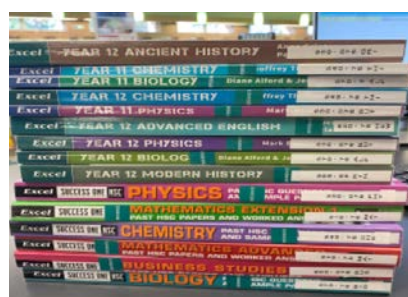
### CURRENT EVENTS—ENGAGING DISPLAYS

Our library tries to stay current so that students can always find the latest novels and nonfiction. This month we have a special display, 'Black Lives Matter' amidst the protest marches in our city and across the globe. Books such as *How to Be an AntiRacist*, *Black like Me*, *Stamped from the Beginning* and *Just Mercy* were passed around by the students as well as biographies of civil rights leaders, Martin Luther King Jr and Nelson Mandela.



### SENIOR STUDY GUIDES

Just arrived! Brand new editions of Preliminary and HSC Study Guides for various courses.



Elizabeth Greaves  
Relieving Teacher Librarian

# 2020 HSC: WHAT'S CHANGED FOR ME?

The NESA COVID-19 Response Committee (with representatives from government, Catholic and independent schools) is carefully considering and making any changes needed to ensure a fair and safe 2020 HSC.

- ✿ **What you need to know** NESA and schools are following the advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, which is also supported by NSW Health.
- ✿ Your school has the authority to determine the number, type and weighting of formal school-based assessment tasks.
- ✿ The written exams start on Tuesday 20 October, and the timetable is now available.
- ✿ You'll get your results on Friday 18 December, by SMS, email and online.
- ✿ An overview of specific changes to the 2020 HSC is on the other side of this leaflet. If you're impacted by any of the changes, talk to your teacher or visit the NESA website for more information, including about how your final mark will be calculated.

