

Tech Talk December 2020

Sydney
Technical
High School



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



A YEAR TO REMEMBER

I believe 2020 has been one of the more challenging times that Sydney Technical High School will ever encounter. The disruption caused by a microscopic particle will never be underestimated. The delivery of education took on many forms including regular face to face to complete on-line delivery and every permutation in-between. I would like to publicly thank each and every parent for their continued support of the school and acknowledge the hard work from our staff. Always at the centre of Tech are our students who have modelled exemplary behaviour in resilience, flexibility and diligence throughout the year. Well done!

In supporting a safer learning environment at Sydney Technical High School you may have noticed our external gates have been closed during class times. The front office gate on Forest Road will remain open for parent access and administrative purposes, however, we continue to encourage on-line fee payments through our website.

I look forward to the application of the upcoming revised DoE COVID guidelines which will assist Sydney Technical High School transfer to a more normalised year in 2021.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENT

I am delighted to announce that a new Deputy Principal has been appointed to Sydney Technical High School. Ms Alison Peachey will join us from the beginning of the school year in 2021. She is currently relieving Deputy Principal at Blakehurst High School, the substantive Head Teacher of Mathematics and a qualified Civil Engineer. She is a highly experienced educationalist and has extensive experience in the use of data to lead the improvement of teaching practice. Her wider school focus on pedagogy, underpinned by student wellbeing, boys education and experience and expertise in Gifted Education, will be most welcome. I look forward to introducing Alison in the new year to our school community.

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ABOVE ESTABLISHMENT HEAD TEACHER CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

I'm proud to announce Ms Julie Ryan was successfully appointed as Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts for 2021. Ms Ryan is a strong advocate for all things CAPA. Her extensive experience and vision will allow her to broaden and deepen the impact of Music and Art in the development of the well-rounded Gifted learners here at Tech. I'm excited to see where Julie will take the faculty next year.

P&C

Thank you to the P&C for the timely installation of the new air-conditioning system in the auditorium which was used for our students during the HSC examinations this year. The timeframe from planning to installation took many years so I would like to thank all who were involved especially Warren Mak – P&C President, Alex Troyak – P&C Treasurer and Jacqui Thompson – Business Manager. The benefits will be appreciated by the whole school community on a regular and ongoing basis and our newest Techies certainly appreciated its benefits during a very warm orientation day on 1 December.

Thank you to the P&C and our community for the amazing Staff Appreciation packages they provided to our staff on World Teacher's Day. The gesture was very much appreciated and the gourmet food hampers were enjoyed by all. A special thank you to Irina Konstantinidis P&C Vice-President and Khalida Bentaalla - P&C Executive for coordinating.

Thanks to Warren Mak and Jacqui Thompson who worked on the P&C's application for the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership Program. Earlier in the year a large storm had

completely destroyed our shade sails and we were needing \$14,000 to replace them. The shade sails positioned over our all-weather table tennis tables are used at every opportunity by the students. The area is also used when we have events such as welcome barbecues for new students and celebrations at the end of the year. The shade during these events is very much appreciated and has been missed during the absence of the sails. We were very grateful to Chris Minns MP and the NSW State Government for providing the Community Building Partnership Program funds for us to reconstruct new sails.

EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE AND THE STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP)

The annual Sydney Technical High School Executive conference was conducted over Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 November last week. The conference was about all things relating to the SIP and day 1 commenced with Joanna French our Director heading a presentation on Leadership. I followed up by supporting executive staff with strategies on the synthesis of the SIP and then time was spent writing the document in cross-faculty groups.

Day 2 involved expert professional learning from speakers who delivered additional information about each Strategic Direction providing a deeper understanding. By the end of the conference, the executive team were excited but exhausted and will now continue to write the SIP and have it in draft before the end of the year.

Wishing you a safe and festive break.

Steven So
Principal



THE SYDNEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL P&C



Come and join us in building a great support network for the students and parents of Sydney Technical High School

P&C MEETINGS
First Tuesday of each month
7:00pm @ STHS Common Room



The P&C is an inclusive group and we welcome & value the input and opinions of all parents. Our aim is to support Sydney Technical High School as a school of excellence for students, teachers and parents.

JOIN THE

FUN.

- Meet other parents
- Meet and hear from guest speakers
- Find out what's happening at the school directly from the school's Principal and Deputy Principals
- Help improve and support school programs and initiatives
- Discuss issues relevant to the school and the surrounding community
- Provide a parent voice to the school community

Join the Year Specific Whatsapp Chat group via links within the STHS Facebook Group



JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

www.facebook.com/groups/sthspandc/

For further information about the P&C please join us on our Facebook Group or send us an email at : sydtechparents@gmail.com

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Term 4 - 2020 December

- 1 Special Religious Education - Years 7 and 10
- 1 Year 8 Inquisitive Minds Maths Day
- 4 Year 10 Minimum Standards Numeracy Tests
- 7-9 Year 7 - Library Activities
- 7 Book Club - Library Seminar Room 1
- 7-11 Year 11 Assessments
- 14 Year 11 NRMA U Turn the Wheel incursion
- 18 HSC Results announced

Term 1 - 2021 January

- 27/28 Teachers return to School
- 29 Years 7/11 and 12 return to school

Term 1 - 2021 February

- 1 Years 8-10 return to school

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 following events clubs have resumed in their usual format.

- * Anime Club - Room 40 - Tuesday Lunchtime
- * Beginner Band Rehearsals - Friday - 2:25pm,
- * Concert Band Rehearsals - Monday - 3:05pm from 16/11
- * Debate Club - Monday and Tuesday - Common Room 3:00pm
- * Guitar Ensemble Rehearsals - Monday - 3:00pm
- * Intermediate Band Rehearsals - Tuesday - 3:00pm from 17/11
- * Running Club - Kempt Field Wednesday - 7:30-8:30am
- * Stage Band Rehearsals - Thursday - 3pm
- * Strings Ensemble Rehearsals - Thursday - 3pm

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT



Students are to attend school until the final day of Term 4, Wednesday 16 December 2020, with all classes being taught meaningful lessons. Spot roll checks will identify fractional truants and parents will be informed. Please ensure that your son continues to attend school prepared to engage in lessons and that he wears correct school uniform each day.

STUDENT DRIVERS

Students who are eligible to drive to school must complete a permission form to do so. There are specific requirements and responsibilities for drivers. There are also permission forms for passengers. Please ask your son to see Mr Copeland to collect these forms.

END OF YEAR REPORTS

Years 7-10 Semester 2 reports will be published and distributed in Week 10. As a reminder, all reports from 2018 are archived and available online through the Sentral Portal.

HSC ASSESSMENT WEEK

The first assessment week for Year 11, as part of their HSC courses, is in Week 9 and 10 (Monday 7 December - Friday 11 December inclusive). All students have been issued with a booklet, which outlines the rules and requirements of the HSC assessments. These rules are in line with NES requirements for the award of the Higher School Certificate. All students and their parents are urged to read this booklet so that they are aware of what to do in the event of illness or misadventure at the time of a task or absence prior to the assessment week. The booklet is also available on the school intranet in Year Files.

RETURN TO SCHOOL 2021

Years 11 and 12 will commence school on Friday 29 January 2021 at 8:45am and Years 8, 9 and 10 on Monday 30 January 2021 at 8:45am. The incoming Year 7 will begin on Friday 29 January 2021 at 9:30am. The first day for each year group will begin with a whole school assembly in the auditorium. Students will then go to classrooms to be issued with their new timetables and school diaries.

THANK YOU

We cannot recall a previous year like what we have all experienced in 2020. We thank you all for your patience, understanding and gratitude through all of Covid-19 trials, tribulations and successes. Your sons' resilience and stoicism are a credit to you and this school. May the summer holiday break be a time for your families to connect, rest and refresh.

See you all again in 2021.

Kirk Grinham
Deputy Principal

Aphrodite Cox
Deputy Principal

Paul Copeland
Rel Deputy Principal

LIBRARY REPORT



GREETINGS FROM THE CHARLES KINGSFORD SMITH LIBRARY

Elizabeth Greaves
Relieving Teacher/
Librarian

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

Year 7 boys who completed PRC are Aariz Anowar, Shayaan Ansari, Ryan Chu, Edward He, Nitin Karthik, Nathan Lee, Frederick Liauw, Sean Lim, Daniel Lin, Joshua Nguyen, Toluwani Omotade, Araf Provat, Gowrav Ravikumar, Shadi Sayrafi, Troy Vo and Derek Zhou.

Year 8 Techies who completed the 2020 PRC are as follows: Araf Ahmed, Russell Liauw, Henry Nguyen, Xavier O'Shea, Toby Ong, Brennan Park, Ridwan Quyyum, Damien Vu, Henry Wang and Thomas Zlatar.

Year 9 boys who completed the challenge are as the following: Ghassan Adra, Charlie Do, Raif Hasan, Ian Hui, Stefan Ilic, Nicholas Maratos, Tejas Narayanan, Abdur Shareef, Gene Truong, Thomas Watts, Tahmeed Zakir and Tahsin Zamin.

Premier's Reading Challenge Gold Awards:

Aariz Anowar and Toluwani Omotade (Year 7)
Ian Hui (Year 9)

Premier's Reading Challenge Platinum Awards:

Russell Liauw (8)
Sean Lim, Daniel Lin and Derek Zhou (Year 7)
Russell Liauw, Toby Ong, Ridwan Quyyum (Year 8)
Abdur Shareef and Tahmeed Zakir (Year 9)

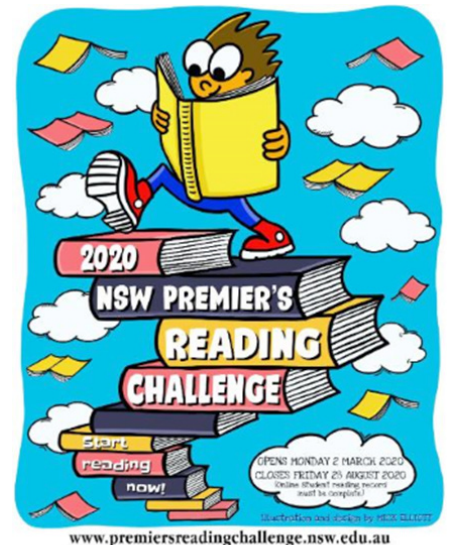
Premier's Reading Challenge Medallions

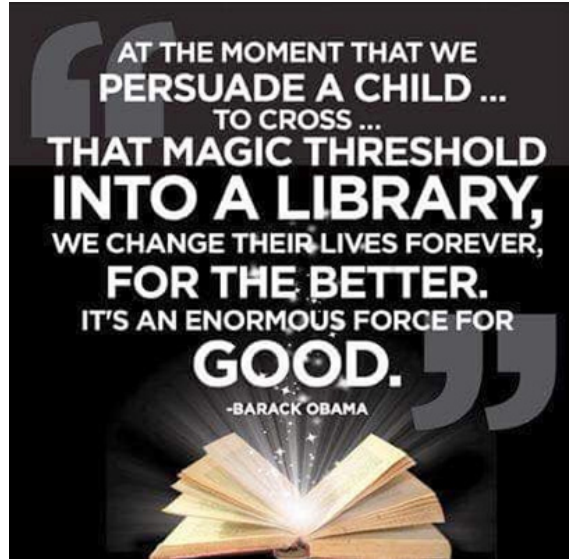
(students participating every year consecutively between Years 3-9)
Ghassan Adra and Stefan Ilic, Nicholas Maratos, Gene Truong and Thomas Watts (Year 9)

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian is encouraging school students to find the same joy in books that she has had since she was a child.

"It's important for children to discover what books have to offer because we know a passion for learning will set them up for the future." Ms Berejiklian said.

"The great thing about books is they cover just about any issue or story you can imagine."





Intra-School Chess 2020

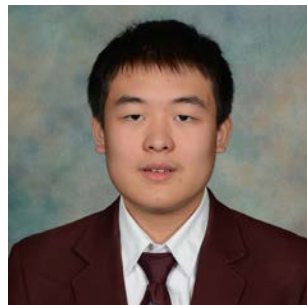
Tech's quest to crown junior and senior chess champions began in Term 3 under the direction of Relieving Teacher Librarian Mrs Elizabeth Greaves and coordinated by Year 11 volunteer, Sumen Ahmed.

The tournament took place each Tuesday at lunch over 14 weeks. The boys diligently showed up on time and are to

be commended for their commitment to chess. We had 36 competitors fighting it out in two different divisions, junior and senior players. Some talented junior players actually "played up" and competed in the senior tournament - Sree Koneru, Naman Mehta and Mark Ureta.



Sumen Ahmed
Chess Coordinator



L-R:

Senior Champion - Mark Ureta
(Mark is in Year 9 and he played up.)

Runner up - Cyrus Wang
3rd place - Deon Argiratos



L-R:

Junior Champion - Neil Reddy

Runner Up - Charlie Do

3rd place - Dominic Ou

"As proved by evidence, [chess is] more lasting in its being and presence than all books and achievements; the only game that belongs to all people and all ages; of which none knows the divinity that bestowed it on the world, to slay boredom, to sharpen the senses, to exhilarate the spirit." – Stefan Zweig, Austrian writer and chess enthusiast.





On Friday 27 November, we welcomed several music students who played flute and violin for a crowded library. Students thought it was wonderful to see their peers perform in such a relaxed setting and as background music for their quiet reading, study or chess games.



Year 7 Escape Room

In week 9 of Term 4 our Year 7 students will be reviewing valuable information literacy skills by working together in groups to 'escape the library' by completing tasks that show that they understand and can apply such skills as writing a bibliography, referencing sources correctly, evaluating sources for a research task, finding fiction and nonfiction resources in the library and more. The students will need to work collaboratively to find the correct codes for them to escape. Any student who still has not

become a member of the State Library of NSW will be led to the website to register during these sessions, as they will then have FREE access to thousands of expensive academic journals, magazines, ebooks and archive materials. Using current and credible sources from an authority of the subject is vital to academic research. Our Escape Room activity is a fun way of reinforcing these vital skills that will help our students to achieve as lifelong learners and understand how to evaluate sources correctly.



Research Literacy – Think CRAAP

Currency	Is the information current?
Relevance	Does the information answer your question?
Accuracy	Is the information supported by evidence?
Authority	Who is the author & what are their qualifications?
Purpose	Are the authors intentions clear?



Displays (far left) such as our latest one showcasing USA politics and the recent election are ways to get our students to dig deeper into how current events affect their lives and those of other Australians. Big crowds of students (left) have been pouring into the library before school and during breaks to play chess.

CAREERS REPORT



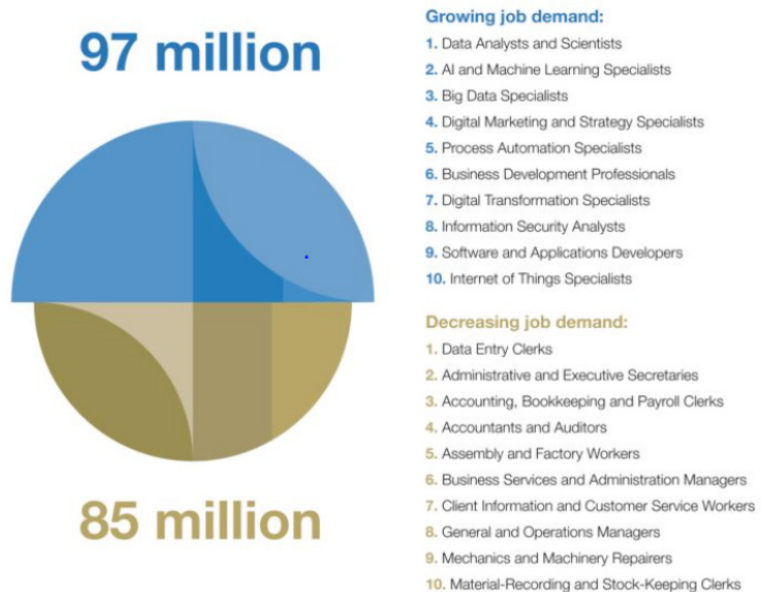
What role does careers play at Sydney Tech? American philosopher Allan Bloom has stated that “education turns darkness into light”. Careers education is about showing students the plethora of career options available to them and, hopefully, culminating in “I am beginning to see the light” (Lou Reed – Velvet Underground). It is about making them job ready in this uncertain era of COVID.

In past issues, I have echoed Dr Jim Bright and the “Chaotic” nature of careers which states that students should remain open to all options and not go into a degree with the mindset of “I will do a marketing major”, but to look at the evolving job market and be open to changing tack.

The World Economic Forum released a job related report “The Future of Jobs 2020” in October, in response to the changing nature of the workforce due to COVID. A key feature of the report is that by 2025, automation and a new division of labour between humans and machines will disrupt 85 million jobs globally. Roles in areas such as data entry and administrative support are decreasing in demand as automation and digitisation in the workplace increases. On the flipside, 97 million new roles will emerge across industries like artificial intelligence and in content creation fields. This is outlined in the graphic below.

Job landscape

By 2025, new jobs will emerge and others be displaced by a shift in the division of labour between humans and machines, affecting:



Source: Future of Jobs Report 2020, World Economic Forum.

The tasks where humans are set to retain their competitive advantage include managing, advising, decision making, reasoning and communicating. The skill set that you need to acquire to be at the forefront of this new economy can be seen in the table on the next page:

Top 10 skills of 2025

Type of skill

- Problem-solving
- Self-management
- Working with people
- Technology use and development



Analytical thinking and innovation



Active learning and learning strategies



Complex problem-solving



Critical thinking and analysis



Creativity, originality and initiative



Leadership and social influence



Technology use, monitoring and control



Technology design and programming



Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility



Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation

Source: Future of Jobs Report 2020, World Economic Forum.

Lastly, I would like to finish the year on another COVID related matter. I would like to acknowledge the work of Dr Adam Ritchie. Adam is an Alumni from the class of 1995.

He is a scientist and academic at the University of Oxford. Adam's current focus is on vaccine development, and he is part of the team developing the COVID-19 vaccine at Oxford.



After graduating from Sydney Technical High School, Adam studied Microbiology and Immunology at the University of NSW. He completed a PhD in Immunology in 2005, at which point he moved to the UK to further his research.

Alongside his research, Adam also teaches students at the University of Oxford. He is a Lecturer in Human Science (medical genetics) and from 2011 to 2017 was also the Lecturer in Science and Public Policy.

Happy and safe festive season and holidays.

Jerry Mouzakis
Relieving Careers Adviser

WELLBEING REPORT



TERM 4 - WELLBEING ASSEMBLIES

The school will hold its final Wellbeing Assembly for the year on Friday 11 December. Our Year 7 students will watch a Cyber Safety presentation from ySafe with a specific focus on the broader social and emotional impacts of sharing digital content when online. The presentation will provide strategies to manage inappropriate requests and peer pressure when communicating with friends in the digital world. The Year 8 program will include viewing this year's STHS entries in the High Resolves Videos for Change Competition during their assembly along with this year's overall winning entries. Year 9 students will hear from their Year Adviser, Ms Steel, about the expectations and requirements for students when they move into Year 10 and finally our Year 10 students will hear a presentation from Tom Reynolds from Drug Education Australia about the risks and laws around the use of drugs. This is always a very interesting presentation.

PEER SUPPORT

Peer Support training took place again this year over a period of two days, for all of our Year 8 students. Sydney Tech has been a long term affiliate member of the Peer Support Foundation of Australia and each year this program is offered to the entire grade so that they can learn important skills in the areas of leadership, resilience, communication, problem solving and team work. The interest in becoming a peer leader appears to be growing each year so the expectations and standards are set very high for those who are selected. Commiserations to those boys who applied and missed out this year – this does not mean that we consider you an unsuitable leader and strongly encourage you to seek other leadership opportunities within the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Pamela Stergiou, our Junior Transition Coordinator, for her role in organising the students, staff and resources for the two day Peer Support Training this year. This is a huge job to coordinate and oversee.

Peer Leaders at Tech play an important role in the transition of incoming Year 7 students. Their first official duties began on Tuesday 1 December at Orientation Day, where our new Peer leaders met their small group of Year 6 students and ran a series of peer led, Covid safe activities. Peer leaders will also make an effort to introduce the Year 6 boys to other incoming students from their local area and will have a more comprehensive tour of the school on their first two days at Tech at the beginning of next year in order to help maximise their transition experience into High School in 2021. Peer Support will continue until the end of Term 2 in 2021 and will be run during the Wellbeing Assembly time slot so that the students will not miss out on any classes. Peer Leaders work in pairs with five Year 7 students and assist them in settling into life at Tech. Across their time together, they will look to build positive relationships with other students and the school. They will cover a range of topics such as establishing relationships and making friends, conflict resolution, anti-bullying lessons, successful communication, getting organised, preparing for exams as well as regular debriefing sessions where general questions about high school life can be asked.

I would like to thank all of Year 8 for their participation and enthusiasm in the two-day peer support training and congratulate the 60 successful leaders who were chosen this year. These boys now have an important role ahead of them. Thank you also to our 12 teacher trainers this year who deserve a special

mention as well – Mr Cachia, Mr Harroothunian, Ms Cox/Ms Huang, Ms Johnston, Ms Burgess, Mr Gamage, Ms Bilton, Ms Lajkoski, Ms Falconer and Mr Devlin/Mr Shen. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the rest of the staff for being so accommodating around rooming rearrangements as well as taking lessons and other duties for our teacher trainers.

HEALTHY HOLIDAY HABITS

As the long summer holiday approaches, the five week break can sometimes be both a blessing and a curse for students and their families. Without the frequent attendance at school from 8:45am each weekday, coupled with less homework and deadlines, students welcome the increased freedoms and opportunities to enjoy their favourite past times. In some instances, students can become almost nocturnal over this long break, staying up very late and then sleeping in even later. Moderation is the key here because when school resumes late January, students with such a disrupted sleep cycle can take a long time reversing their near-jetlag symptoms and readjust to a regular and healthy pattern of school – life – sleep.

The holidays and the warm summer weather are wonderful opportunities for students to leave their screens at home and take part in something new, fun and/or interactive – outside! Parents may find this a familiar issue when encouraging participation that does not involve a device that requires its battery being charged daily. Suggesting healthy alternatives can be met with ‘deaf ears’ by adolescents and sometimes it is the parent who must take charge and organise these events on their son’s behalf. Consider time at the beach, in a National Park, hiring a tennis court, finding out what’s on through the youth departments of your local council. There may be art camps, basketball camps, soccer or cricket clinics. While some of these cost money, many others don’t or the cost may be spread across a group. That’s where involving your son’s friends can become important.

The holidays are a vital time for rest and recuperation. They are times to recharge the ‘human’ batteries ahead of what will be another busy year at Tech in 2021.

Nick Stokes
Wellbeing Head Teacher

Ryan Wang Memorial

At the end of Term 3 we recognised and honoured the memory of Ryan Wang who tragically passed away during Term 3 2019.

*A sculpture was added to his plaque to commemorate his love of music and status as an eternal Techie.
RIP Ryan*

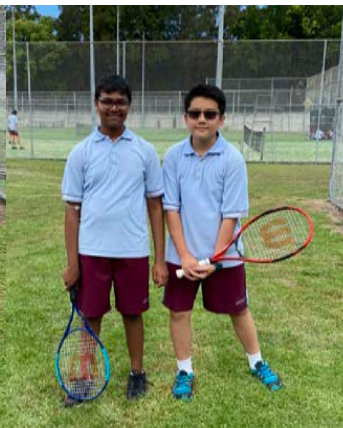


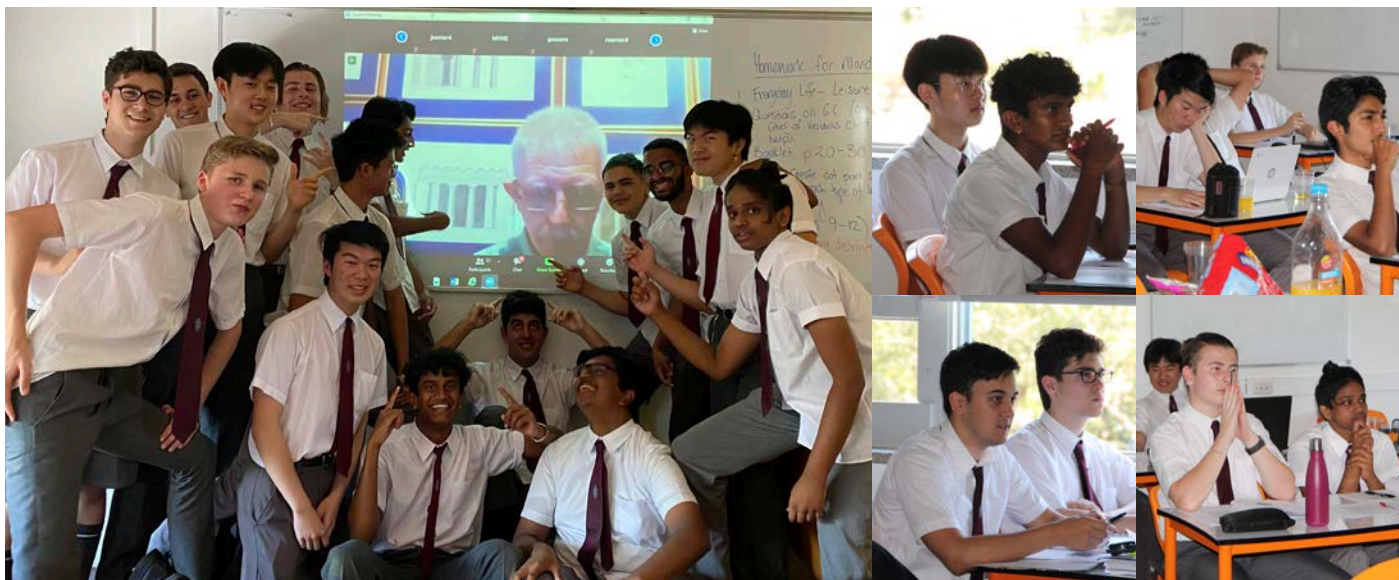


TENNIS

Even though the COVID restrictions meant that most of sport was curtailed this year, we have been running a round robin competition for the last few weeks and the doubles in the photos on this page are the boys who won their rounds.

Caitlin Irvine





Herculaneum Incursion

On Friday 20 November, Ms Irvine's Ancient History class participated in a digital Zoom lecture with the esteemed archaeologist and historian Dr Brian Brennan. Equipped with snacks, the class utilised the lecture to help get ahead and prepare for the tough journey through the core of the Ancient History Year 12 course. The main topic of discussion was the ancient city of Herculaneum, where

students considered the effects of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD on the town and delved into what we can learn about the lives of the citizens from the remains of the site. In the lectures, Dr Brennan also exposed students to a wide range of historical evidence and detailed methods of analysis to aid students with the integration of this evidence in our writing.

Overall, it was not only an opportunity for the students to bond with their class mates but also an extremely beneficial activity for our learning. We thank Ms Irvine for organising the event and her continual hard work and effort put into her classes.

Sadek Medlej
Year 11 Ancient History





Year 10 Maths Day

Excellence in Mathematics

Congratulations to the following students who achieved at the top of their Mathematics courses in their Term 4 examinations. Letters of commendation have been sent home to these students and they have received a bronze merit award from the Mathematics Faculty.

Year 7

Jerry Chen, Henry Duong, Nicholas Fung, Alex Jiang, Eric Lee, Yusuf Mahdi, Toluwani Omotade, Araf Provat, Shadi Sayrafi, Akshath Senthil, Marcus Suen, Troy Vo, Tony Xi, Daniel Yang and Macquis Yu.

Year 8

Andriy Chan, Leon Gan, Suhash Kabir, Zubair Khan, Angus Khuu, Russell Liauw, Steven Lin, Zhanyu Lin, Newton Ly, Salih Mujala, Felix Nguyen, Trint Ortega, Vincent Shi, Ayush Sitaula, Aidan Tang, Mohammad Tawseefuzzaman, Damien Vu, Henry Wang, Justin Wilson, Allen Xu, Apporva Yadav, Anthony You, Allan Zhang, James Zhou and Thomas Zlatar.

Year 9

Joshua Bae, William Cui, Mehmet Demdi, Conrad Fong, Surya Gounder, Benjamin Hyun, Sree Koneru, Benson Liu, Phoenix Liu, Tejas Narayanan, Alexander Nguyen, Joseph Nguyen, Dharshan Retnasingham, Danny Tan, Keith Trayhurn, Gene Truong, Mark Ureta, Brandon Wang, and Justin Zhang.

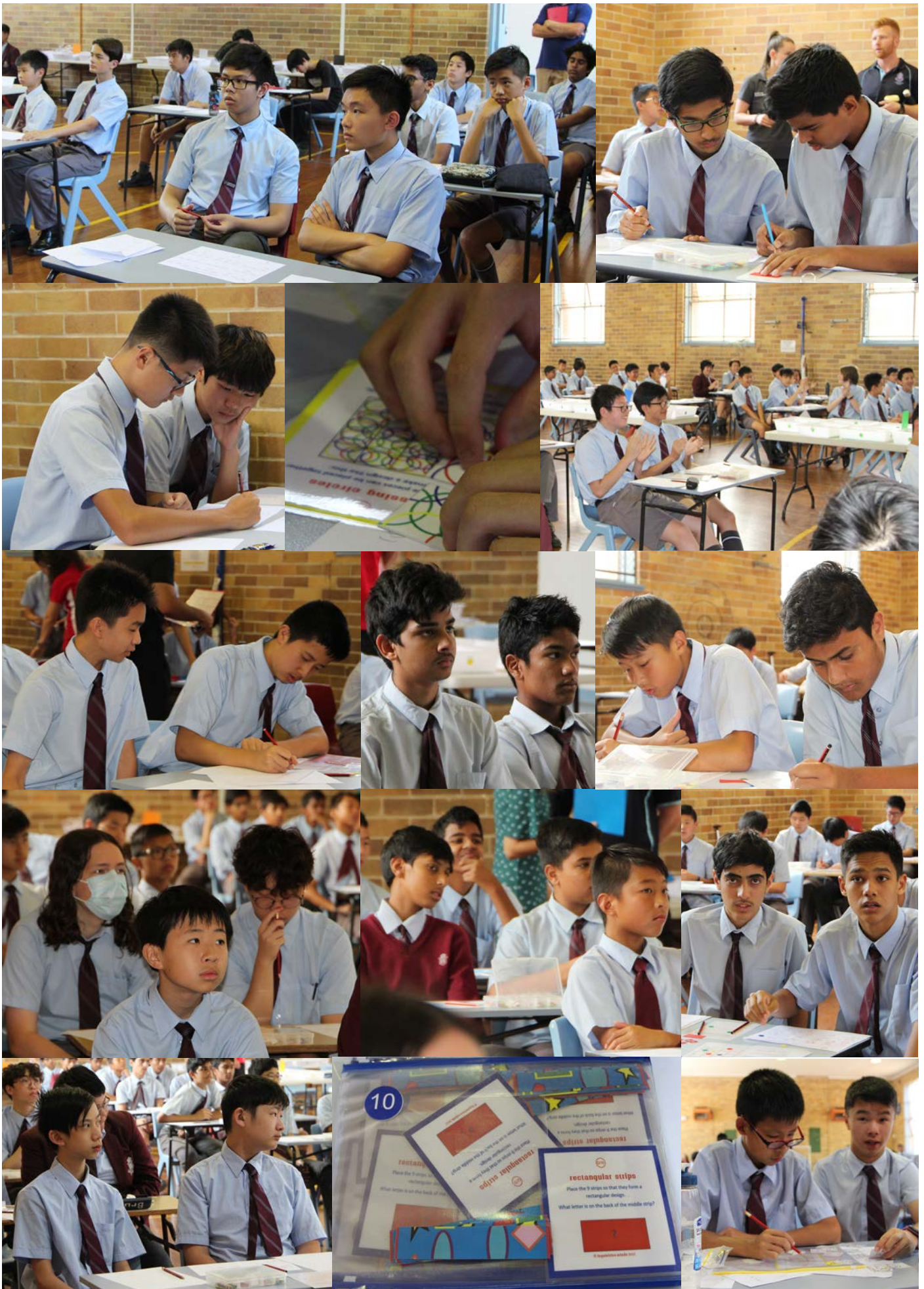
Year 10

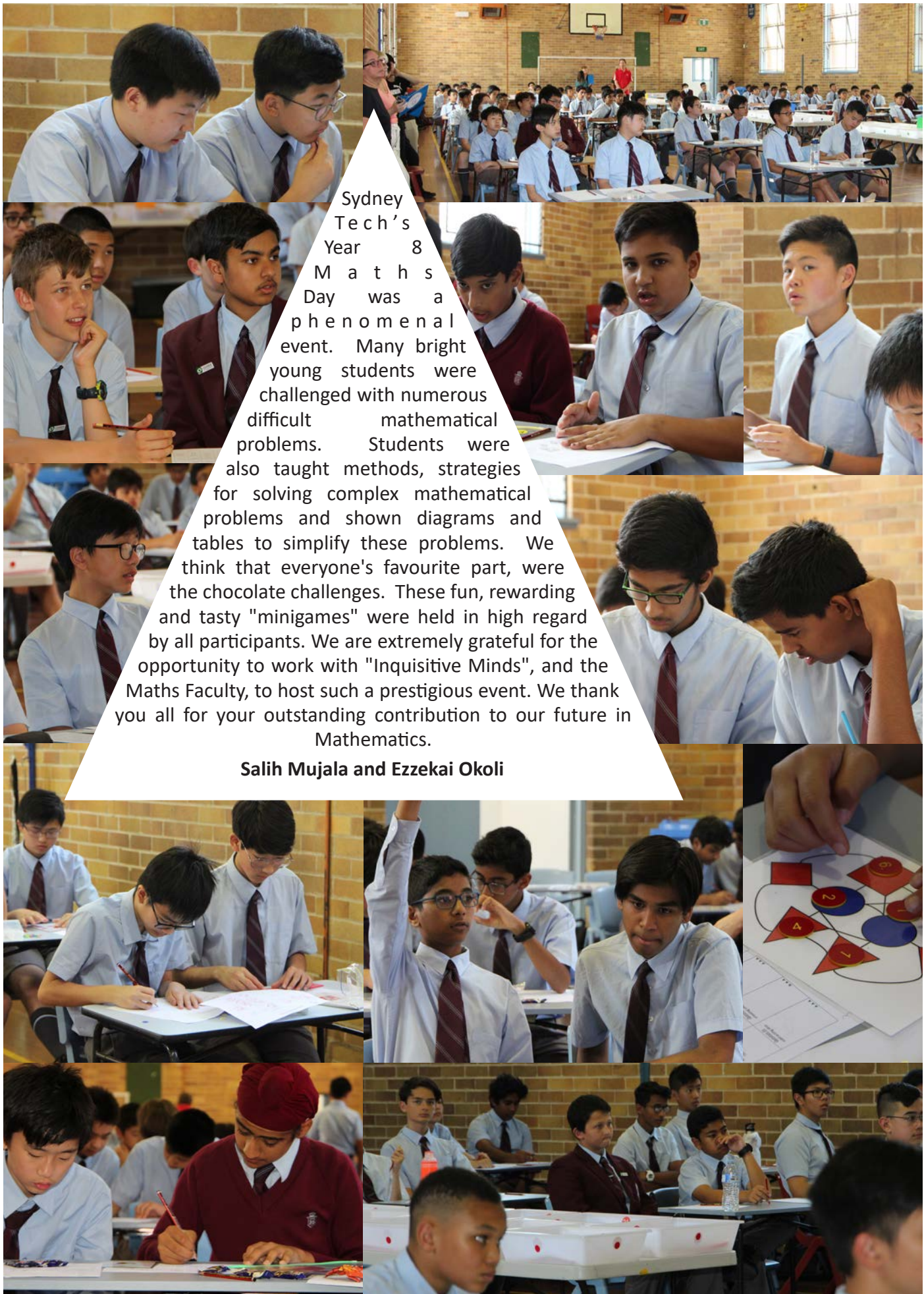
Adithya Agilan, Jay Bae, Dylan Budiharto, Vernon Cai, Nicholas Chatterton, Stanley Cho, Raya Choudhry, Ethan Chung, Neil Dadhich, Brian Dang, Pavith Gunasekara, Rashad Islam, Yi Ru Jang, Albert Lee, Roger Li, Jonathan Liu, Marcus Nguyen, Richard Quach, Mohammad Rashid, Amin Tafech, and Dominick Widjaja.

Keep up the fantastic work, boys!

Pamela Stergiou
Mathematics Faculty







Sydney Tech's Year 8 Maths Day was a phenomenal event. Many bright young students were challenged with numerous difficult mathematical problems. Students were also taught methods, strategies for solving complex mathematical problems and shown diagrams and tables to simplify these problems. We think that everyone's favourite part, were the chocolate challenges. These fun, rewarding and tasty "minigames" were held in high regard by all participants. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with "Inquisitive Minds", and the Maths Faculty, to host such a prestigious event. We thank you all for your outstanding contribution to our future in Mathematics.

Salih Mujala and Ezzekai Okoli

Bringing Music Back to Tech!

On Friday, we had the Music Appreciation Mufti Day. There were performances in the Quad and the Library. Some highlights were The String Ensemble performance, *Highway to Hell* by some of our Year 9 musicians. Aaryan Singh, of Year 9, shredding guitar across the quad and also the Year 10 and 11 piano soloists. We also had a few saxophones and trumpet players performing in the courts which only served to enhance the basketball skills of the boys listening. The students and staff in the library were also entertained by acoustic guitar, violin and viola performances. This was so well received by the school community that we have been asked to make this a regular thing. Thanks to all the staff and students who supported the day and the talented musicians who performed.





The Ensemble Program at Tech:

The String Ensemble and Guitar Ensemble have been running as normal since the return from lockdown which has been wonderful. The Guitar Ensemble have been working on *The Sounds of Silence* by Simon and Garfunkel and The Strings have been playing *Nimrod* by Elgar. Since the beginning of Term 4, the Stage Band has been rehearsing and been playing *Tequila!* by Chuck Rio and *The Girl from Ipanema* by Antônio Carlos Jobim.

After the HSC, the bigger ensembles resumed their rehearsals. Concert Band have been working on *Mas Que Nada* by Sergio Mendes and the Intermediate Band have been working in tutorial groups on small ensemble pieces like *Carol of the Bells* by Mykola Leontovych and *Light* by Chelsey Boutilier.

The Choir has been having smaller rehearsals with five members present at a time. We have been able to have senior (Years 9, 10 and 11) and junior (Years 7 and 8) rehearsals. They have been rehearsing *Yesterday* by The Beatles in two part harmony and sounding great!

In Week 6, the Beginner Band had their Graduation Concert and this has been recorded and will be sent to the parents once it is ready. They performed so well and their conductor Kenny Bradshaw was instrumental in their growth from novice to skilled musicians. It has been wonderful to see them coming to the Intermediate Band tutorials in the past few weeks. Well done boys!

It is such a joy to have the STHS Ensemble Program running again and we are really looking forward to sharing all these pieces and so much more with you as soon as we are able. If any parents would like to see the COVID plan that has been created for the STHS Performing Ensembles Program, please email the school.

Yours in music

Julie Ryan and Shane Gamage
Performing Ensembles Coordinators

SCHOOL NOTICES

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

COVID-19 - Please be aware that at the present time we would appreciate it if all parents and visitors do not come on to school grounds.

We will inform you when we have a change in this ruling from the Department of Education.

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.

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, a letter must be brought to the school office 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 if you can spare some time.**

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 8 December. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, only students are allowed to come along and grab a bargain.** If you have any donations of used uniform items, please have your son bring them in to the Office.

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.

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.

Please check the calendar in this Tech Talk and the more comprehensive Website Calendar for any events that may now be taking place.

PAYMENTS DURING COVID-19

As a result of COVID-19, online payments are preferable as parents and visitors are not allowed on school grounds at this time.

Credit card payments can be made over the phone.

If paying by cash, put the correct money in an envelope with student's name, class and item for which payment is being made and your son can bring to the office before school, recess and lunch.

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.

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. Donations to the fund over \$2 may be tax deductible.

Recently, the Building Fund has renovated both the senior and junior toilets together with a major upgrade to the students' change rooms. We are currently upgrading our electrical network to enable upgraded wifi facilities to provide students with continuing future technology resources

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 to the fund over \$2 may be 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