

Tech Talk June 2020

Sydney
Technical
High School



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



The thriving educational institution Sydney Technical High School is back in full operation. As you know, the school has transitioned from face to face teaching to distance education and back once more. From many in-depth conversations it seems staff, students and parents are all extremely happy school life is back to normality of sorts.

Importantly the rapid transition between models has allowed us to operate in each allowing for effective comparison and reflection. A survey is currently being conducted to ascertain data informing how we move forward. In particular, the information provided will allow us to improve teaching and learning by incorporating the best parts of one model to another.

Thank you to parents for assisting in the strong support of your son when learning from home whilst juggling many other things in your household, I feel as if each of you should be awarded a Certificate in Teaching! Further, your support of your son's return has allowed the school to function effectively once more.

I'd like to acknowledge the work of the staff who have facilitated effective teaching and learning regardless of the platform. The diligence and resilience of the staff really shone brightly during a most difficult time.

Welcome back to all.

Steven So
Principal

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DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT



The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent Government and Departmental guidelines have seen significant school events cancelled, postponed or instead, delivered remotely. These have included our athletics carnival, work experience, camps, assessments, parent partnership meetings, assemblies, parent-teacher interviews, and SRC week festivities, to name a few. We have instead been heavily immersed in Zooms, Google Classrooms, hand sanitizer, coughing etiquette, musters and daily briefings by the NSW Premier – what a semester!

Many of these standard calendar events are annual highlights and we are acutely aware of the academic and wellbeing benefits they provide our students. When regulations further lift, we will be committed to exploring the viability of each event and a possible rescheduling for some other time in 2020 or 2021. Stand by and we thank you all for your patience and cooperation throughout this great period of change.

YEAR 10 PLANNING FOR YEAR 11

Our Year 10 discussions and planning for subject selection 2020 and career paths have commenced under the guidance of the Careers Adviser, Mr Mouzakis. Last month, Mr Mouzakis held a Zoom meeting for parents about these processes and supporting documents, including a recording of this meeting have been emailed to all parents.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL OR LATENESS TO SCHOOL

Explanations for absences from school or lateness to school should always be provided to the school by parents within seven (7) school days. This can be done in a variety of methods including replying to the school text message, sending in a note with the student, a phone call or email.

Reasons for absence and lateness are varied. Some reasons are deemed by the Department of Education as valid reasons and others are not. Notes are processed and the information will appear on the intranet or on Sentral. Valid reasons will appear as Sick or Leave. Reasons deemed not to be valid will appear as Unjustified. Leave not explained after seven (7) days will be converted to Unjustified.

Medical appointments should be made outside of school hours where possible. This includes during sport time. Sydney Tech is an integral member of our Sport Zone and student participation in grade teams means that they have made a commitment to the school, their coach and fellow players.

UNIFORM

As the weather becomes cooler, a reminder that students are still expected to wear correct school uniform. Blazers are compulsory in Terms 2 and 3 for Years 7-12. If students need extra warmth, then the school uniform jumper may be worn under the blazer. Hoodies are not acceptable in any circumstance.

Sports uniform is to be worn on Wednesdays (Sport Day) but black track 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 sport uniform.

Diane Wilson
Deputy Principal

Kirk Grinham
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



There have been a number of postponed activities that Careers was organising due to the Covid 19 crisis. Here is a list of the events and what is currently available to students.

UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

The school has had to cancel our university presentations for this term. The boys have been provided virtual presentations from UNSW and Sydney University. We have hard copies of course guide books available from UNSW, UTS and Sydney University. They can be found in the library, Careers Cottage and the Careers nook near Room 3. Please avail yourself of copies of the institutions you are interested in researching.

EXCURSIONS

Both planned excursions have been cancelled. The organisers have moved these events online. The students involved have been emailed links to both the Big Day in IT and the Moore Park HSC and Career Expo.

PARENTS PARTNERSHIPS

Two were scheduled for this term. A Year 10 Subject Selection presentation and a Year 11/12 Scholarship presentation. These presentations are now available for perusal. These have been put on the google drive.

YEAR 10 - WORK EXPERIENCE

The August dates have been postponed. We are looking at rescheduling work experience towards the end of this year. We will keep Year 10 updated to these changes as they occur.

UNSW CO-OP SCHOLARSHIP

If you would like to find out more about this scholarship, we will be having a Zoom session with the UNSW Co-op Office on Friday 16 June. Details will be available in the upcoming Oracle.

If you have any concerns regarding university choices, subject selection or anything career related, please email me- jerry.mouzakis@det.nsw.edu.au

Jerry Mouzakis
Relieving Careers Adviser



WELLBEING REPORT

It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through Term 2 and what significant changes we have seen during this time. As a school community we have had to adjust to many new ways of teaching, learning and supporting our students through the recent pandemic but none of this would have been possible without everyone supporting each other through these difficult times. I would like to extend my appreciation to all of the Year Advisers and Learning Support Team who took the time to set up Wellbeing Hubs and a Learning Support page via Google Classroom to keep our boys engaged, supported and connected to the school and each other. The hubs enabled the Year Advisers to post some excellent resources from Black Dog Institute, Be You, Headspace, Reach Out and many other external presenters that we have used over the years for our Wellbeing Assemblies. The boys even had the opportunity whilst remote learning to participate in some fun activities and competitions online outside their normal timetabled lessons.

For our Year 12 students, we purchased 4 x 15 minute study skills sessions as videos which will be released at different times over the next four months as ongoing, targeted support. The links to these videos will be made available through the Year 12 Wellbeing Hub and also sent out as an SMS to all Year 12 parents and students. The videos will focus on the following:

- Video 1: Just before the coming school holidays. Addressing Year 12 concerns around what is happening and helping them plan their work for the school holidays.
- Video 2: Early Term 2, study skills tips on moving forward in the current learning environment.
- Video 3: Preparing for the Trials
- Video 4: Post Trials, how to make a study plan for the HSC.

Year 12 students are reminded that they should reach out to any member of the Wellbeing Team, HSC Mentor or class teachers if they require any additional support. We wish all our senior students

the very best in their upcoming assessment weeks this term.

All school camps and Wellbeing Assemblies that involve Guest Speakers in whole Year group settings will continue to be deferred for now. As you can imagine, this is extremely disappointing for the students, but Year Advisers are looking at other dates or alternate options in late Term 3 and Term 4 to try and reschedule some of these cancelled Wellbeing events.

ATTENDANCE

As students returned back to school for normal face to face lessons from Monday 25 May, compulsory school attendance is back in place here at Tech. If your son has a medical certificate which states that he is unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition or is currently unwell then they must remain at home. Please do not hesitate to contact your son's Year Adviser if you have any further questions around attendance or school work due to extended periods of leave.

Finally, I would like to share these final tips for families as we return back to some kind of normality in our lives.

1. Keep calm – there are lots of things outside our control. Let's remember to focus on what really matters. School will continue to focus on being a calm place where students feel they belong and can learn.
2. Be kind – we are all in this together. Reach out to help others who may be in need. Know that nearly everyone is feeling stressed and when we are on edge, we can be sharp when we do not mean to be.
3. Talk to your child about the importance of good hygiene and the need for social distancing, your support is valued and needed.

Warm Regards

Nick Stokes
Head Teacher Wellbeing

STUDY WITHOUT STRESS

A free 8 week online group
equipping you with the tools and
strategies to manage stress
associated with study.
For students in Years 10-12.

**RUNS WEDNESDAYS 4:30-5:30PM
VIA ZOOM
STARTING 3RD JUNE**

Registrations essential:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/69D78CM>
For more info, contact 8048 3350 or
headspace.hurstville@stride.com.au



STUDY WITHOUT STRESS

A free 8 week online group
equipping you with the tools and
strategies to manage stress
associated with study.
For students in Years 10-12.

**RUNS TUESDAYS 4-5PM VIA ZOOM
STARTING 16TH JUNE**

Registrations essential:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PJSGH3W>

For more info, contact 8048 3350 or
headspace.hurstville@stride.com.au



P&C REPORT



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

**The next Zoom Meeting is on 2 June 2020
at 7pm**

All Parents Welcome to join the Meeting.

COVID-19

I hope you and your family are doing well during this crazy and strange time. This year has been extremely disruptive for the students, teachers, staff and parents of the Sydney Tech community.

This pandemic has been tough for everyone and I especially feel for the students. Obviously health and safety is of the utmost importance and it is up to us as parents to help our sons adjust and balance the pressure of their academic endeavour and health. My son is in Year 12 and I often have to remind him (and myself) that as important as every assessment is, we must all put things into perspective and understand that everyone is in the same situation and one set of assessments is not the end of the world.

The school's response to this pandemic has been fantastic. Our school (like every other school), implemented a whole new educational and delivery model in a little over two weeks. Sure there were issues, and everyone (both students and teachers) adjusted to it differently, but overall I was impressed to see how flexible and dedicated the school has been in looking after and catering to the needs of all students.

It was also encouraging to see how well our students adjusted to the altered learning environment and leaned in to the flexible online model to ensure their academic studies could progress forward. Even though there's nothing good about COVID-19, I do hope that when we look back at it, our kids will have gained and built some resilience through this period of time that will benefit them for their continued journey in life.

ONLINE P&C MEETING - MAY

We had our first ever online P&C Meeting and it was wonderful to see a large amount of parents attending the meeting.

I have always seen a lot of value in having our P&C Meetings online due to the fact that many of the student/parent community resides quite far away from the school. Having online options for the P&C Meeting just makes sense allowing the opportunity for more parents to be engaged with the P&C and the school.

Even though the online meeting was forced upon us by necessity, I'm hoping to keep this online method of delivering the P&C meeting even after we are able to host the meeting at the school again.

Our June P&C Meeting will also be on Zoom, I hope to see you all online.

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) - Please share the link with your friends and family who might be interested in the Entertainment Book. Every purchase via the STHS page will help raise 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) - the email for contacting the P&C is sytechparents@gmail.com

Please send your suggestions, queries etc to this email.

For the upcoming P&C meeting please look to the top of this page.

Warren Mak
P&C President

Performing Ensembles News

The following rehearsals will take place from
Week 6 Monday 1 June 2020 until the end of Term 2:

Ensemble	Day	Time	Location	Details	Tutor
Concert Band	Monday	3:05-4:30pm	Auditorium	Sectionals only*	Mr Gamage
Choir	Tuesday	Lunchtime	Auditorium	All students	Mrs Ryan
Intermediate Band	Tuesday	3:05-4:30pm	Auditorium	Sectionals only*	Mrs Ryan
String Ensemble	Thursday	3:05-4:00pm	Room 42	All students	Mrs Ryan
Stage Band	Thursday	3:05-4:00pm	Auditorium	All students	Mr Gamage

* Sectionals are smaller rehearsals with specific groups of instruments.

They will be determined by the band tutor and will be advertised in the daily notices.

Beginner Band: At this stage, there has been no information as to when the rehearsals will resume.

Any information will be forwarded when it is received.

Members of the current Beginner Band are welcome to attend their relevant Intermediate Band rehearsal until their rehearsals resume.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

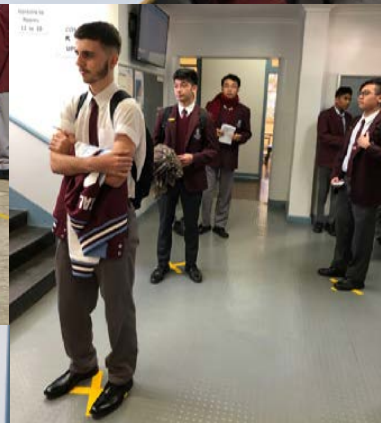
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all rehearsals and proper social distancing measures must be applied wherever possible.
- There is to be NO borrowing of instruments (flutes, trumpets, trombones, clarinets etc) from the school. You must bring your own personal instrument and accessories. The only exception to this is if you previously organised to borrow an instrument earlier in the year.
- All large school equipment (pianos, drums, percussion, guitars, amps, cellos, double bass, baritone sax etc) must be wiped down BEFORE and AFTER rehearsals. Disinfectant wipes will be available at all rehearsals. It is the responsibility of the person using the instrument to ensure this happens.
- Do not play another person's instrument. This includes pianos, drums, mallets and drumsticks.

We are doing everything we can to get the performing ensemble program up and running in this difficult time. Due to the gap in the rehearsal schedule, there will be a reduction in the ensemble fees and invoices for this will be sent out at the end of the term.

We would like to thank you for your continued support of this valuable part of Sydney Technical High School and we look forward to performing for you as soon as possible.



SOCIAL DISTANCING AT STHS





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. **Please note that the uniform shop is not open at this time due to COVID-19.**

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



In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim.

Linton Weeks

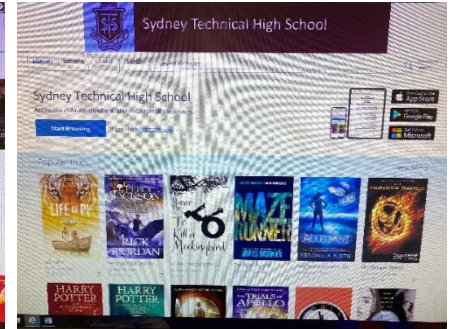
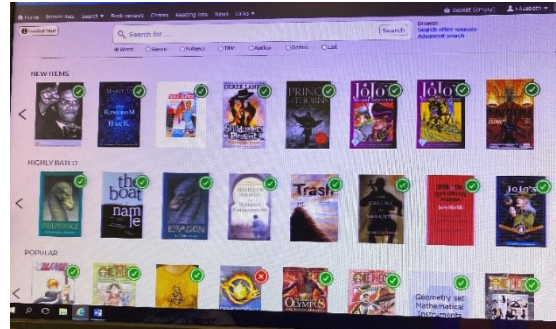
Greetings from the Charles Kingsford Smith Memorial Library!

In the library we missed seeing the students' faces while we were all learning from home. Glad to see the students again!

E-BOOKS

We have purchased an e-book package for students to use while learning from home. To use it the students need to go to their student portal and click on My Library. It will take them to a site that looks like this:

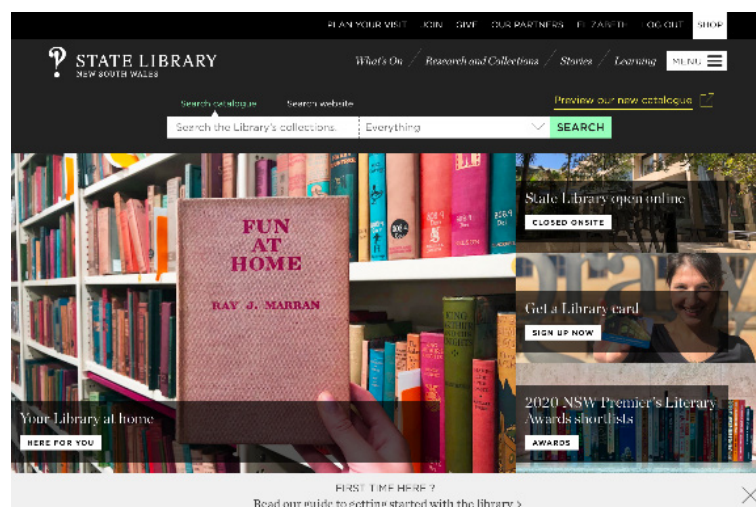
From there, students can search using filters for e-books, borrow books for two weeks and/or reserve or renew titles.



Alternatively, some staff and students prefer downloading the ePlatform by Wheelers app onto their devices. Select our school name from the drop down list then sign in using your DET username and password. This app looks more like Kindle and iBooks that students may already have experience using. From both of these, students have access to 10,000+ e-books.

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/>

Students are also advised to go to the State Library of NSW website and to click JOIN in the upper right corner. Once they get a username and password, they will have access to thousands of journals, magazines and archived materials to use for their different subjects. It is important for students to remember that when they do research, peer-reviewed journal articles are respected and reliable where as some websites are not as they just contain people giving their opinions without evidence. The State Library of NSW website also gives students access to more e-books in both fiction and nonfiction.



HARRY POTTER AT HOME

Wizarding World, the official Harry Potter website, features actor Daniel Radcliffe reading the first chapter of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, accompanied by illustrations of the action which was sent in to the site provided by fan art. Spotify has the audio only for free. Enjoy! Each week, they'll continue with other famous people, with David Beckham set to read a future chapter.



LIBRARY INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

Make sure to follow the library's Instagram account @sydneytechlibrary for student photos, promotions, contests, special events and more.



Instagram

Elizabeth Greaves
Relieving Teacher Librarian

See <https://www.wizardingworld.com> then click Harry Potter at Home to listen/watch.

If you want to read a chapter a day (for free) of Rowling's new Book *The Ickabog* which will be released in November of this year, go to <https://www.theickabog.com/read-the-story/>

J K Rowling is holding a contest for illustrations of each chapter. She will choose some to include in her book when released. All proceeds from the book will go to help Covid-19 charities.



SRC Moodle Quest

In the midst of a pandemic, a school shutdown and the rise of online learning, the SRC with the help of Ms Chork and Ms Tan, reunited a school community with an epic quest that took students to the edges of the world wide web and Moodle. The task was simple although by no means easy: follow a chain of clues and keys to the final prize. The clues had to be deciphered, using the boy's own wit and best friend Google. These led to different places on Moodle and keys to unlock the next clue.

The SRC would like to congratulate:

Jay Bae, Nicholas Chatterton and Matthew Lois, who in first place, completed the quest in 1 hour and 37 minutes.

Thejas Madathil and Dominick Widjaja, who placed second in 3 hours and 5 minutes.

And finally, to Eric Lin, Andy Ng and Samuel Waters, who placed third in 1 day, 21 hours and 36 minutes.

Congratulations on completing the quest and on winning some JB HI-FI vouchers. Thank you to everyone who took part in this epic adventure.

If you are still stuck on clue number one, a syllabary is a writing system where the characters represent syllables.

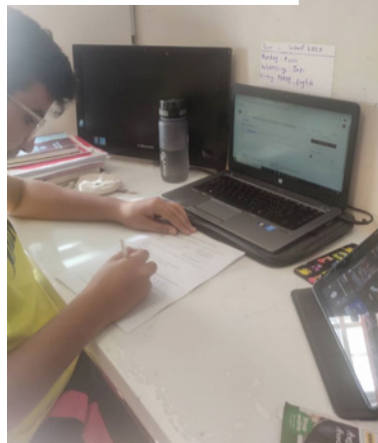
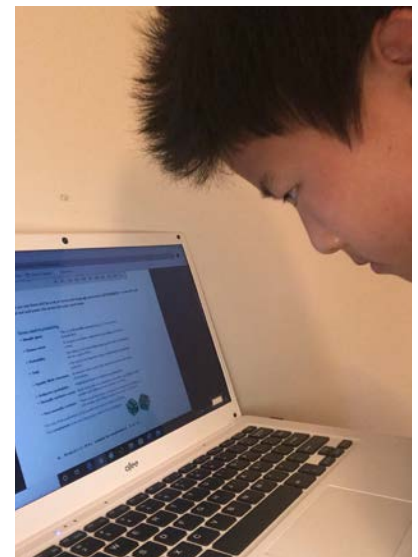
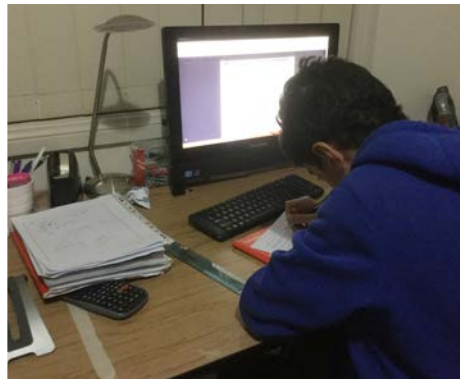
Ambrose Konstantinidis and Daniel Jensen



Honour 1st Class: Nicholas Chatterton, Jay Bae
absent for photo: Matthew Lois



Online Learning



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.

