

# Tech Talk November 2020

## Sydney Technical High School



### FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I would like to acknowledge the work of our dedicated staff on World Teacher's Day. When I spoke to our students at assembly on Friday, the boys understood the definition of a good teacher wasn't easy to pin down. It is a mixture of many skills including great pedagogy, emotional intelligence and the innate ability of extracting the personal best from each student. Students agreed our teachers at Sydney Technical High School regularly demonstrate these great teaching skills.

A big thank you to the P&C committee for providing to staff the very generous "thank you" packages. I know the acknowledgement from our parent community means a lot to staff members as "teaching" took many different turns throughout this year. World Teacher's Day was very special because of our P&C and their generosity and kindness are very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank the P&C for the recent installation of the new airconditioning system in the auditorium which has been used to keep the Year 12 boys in comfort whilst they busily complete their HSC examinations this year. I know the timeframe from planning to installation took years so I would like to thank all who were involved. The benefits will be appreciated by the whole community and will be used on a regular basis including school assemblies, professional learning sessions, Presentation Day and many other events.

### CONGRATULATIONS

- Raj Taware Year 12 class of 2020 was selected by The Sydney Morning Herald to solve the hardest question in Extension 2 Maths HSC. Raj was one of a few who was able to complete this extremely difficult task. Please see the article and video featuring Raj at: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/it-s-the-hardest-question-in-the-hsc-could-you-solve-it-20201027-p5696p.html> Watch out Eddy Woo!
- Huy Nguyen received a High Distinction in the Earth and Environmental Science Olympiad Summer competition and was offered a place in Summer School. This competition is extremely prestigious with only the top 1% of students being offered a place across Australia.



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT .....	1	WELLBEING .....	12
SCHOOL CALENDAR .....	3	P&C REPORT .....	14
DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT .....	4	MUSIC ENSEMBLES NEWS .....	15
EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS .....	5	SCHOOL NOTICES .....	16
LIBRARY REPORT .....	6	STUDENTS AROUND SCHOOL .....	19
CAREERS REPORT .....	10		

- Glenn Gao, Miguel Mariano, Wesley Yiu, Andrew Zhang and Jeffery Zhong have been nominated for HSC Encore for their excellent performance in HSC Music.



- Khoi Nguyen was nominated for Artexpress due to his outstanding practical artwork.



relationships within these dynamics. Recognising the need and developing the plans and associated relationship to acquire these leadership skills results in a dynamic centre of educational excellence and a place where students and staff alike love to learn.

Every year, 100% of our graduates go on to university. A recent Harvard Business School article identifies that our current generation of young people will experience no less than 17 career/study changes in their lives before – or perhaps not ever – reaching their ideal vocation.

For the improvement of our world, our students therefore require learning opportunities from passionate and expert teachers who can best equip them for their lives ahead. This notion is at the essence of public education and we, as privileged educators at a selective high school, are obliged to facilitate. Across all three directions, irrespective of the activities that will drive it, the expertise of every one of our teachers and leaders is crucial. Innovation is therefore required for us to head in this direction and a strategic plan to strengthen teacher pedagogy that authentically builds the capacity of our students to be more inquiry based, collaborative and creative is paramount.

We are very excited about the new SIP as it will be the blueprint which will lead to an elevated level of student success at Sydney Technical High School.

**Steven So**  
Principal

## STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN

As we complete the current School Plan, the school is in the process of forming it's Strategic Improvement Plan - SIP for 2021–2024.

The three strategic directions are Growth and Attainment, Leadership, and Innovation. These areas which have arisen from data collation and consultation processes.

Growth and Attainment in our context is about lifting the literacy skills and hence HSC outcomes of our students so they are able to successfully access educational outcomes realising student talent. As a selective school for boys, it is our moral imperative to establish and maintain high standards and lift curricular and extra-curricular achievement to the highest level possible and develop well rounded life-long learners.

Leadership is about influence. Acknowledging that all members of our school community be they students, teachers, counsellors, administrative staff, parents, external partners or Alumni – we have a collective responsibility to development and exercise leadership skills. If leadership is about influence, then any type of improvement that a school wishes to explore must come from the

# SCHOOL CALENDAR

Term 4 - 2020

## November

- 2-11 HSC Exams
- 2-3 Year 8 VALID Testing
- 2-6 Year 7 Assessments
- 3 P&C Zoom Meeting - 7pm
- 10 Uniform Shop - **OPEN RECESS FOR STUDENTS ONLY**
- 9 Year 7 Pre Recorded Parent Partnership  
Email to follow with details
- 9-13 Year 9 Assessments
- 9-13 Year 10 HSC Minimum Standards Writing Tests
- 11 Year 10 ZOOM Parent Partnership Meeting  
Email to follow with details.
- 12 Years 11 and 12 Pre Recorded Parent Partnership  
Email to follow with details
- 13 Beginner Band Concert - Filmed and Streamed for  
Parents
- 16 Concert Band Weekly Rehearsals recommence
- 16-20 Year 8 Assessments
- 17 Intermediate Band Weekly Rehearsals commences
- 17, 19 Year 10 HSC Minimum Standards Numeracy Tests  
23, 24
- 24 Special Religious Education - Years 7 and 8
- 26 Year 10 Talented Maths Day

## December

- 1 Special Religious Education - Years 9 and 10
- 1 Year 8 Inquisitive Minds Maths Day
- 4 Year 10 Minimum Standards Numeracy Tests

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

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 staff and I appreciate your unfaltering support during this extraordinary year. 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.

*Also please be aware that visitors to the school including parents and friends are not to come on to school grounds.*

*Steven So, Principal*

**EVEN THOUGH ALL BANDS, GUITAR AND STRINGS REHEARSALS HAVE RECOMMENCED, CHOIR PRACTICES HAVE NOT RESUMED.**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT



### YEAR 12

Year 12 HSC exams are under way and will continue into early November. Students will be able to access their ATARs on Friday 18 December. Unfortunately, the delayed publication of the results means that our traditional morning tea cannot proceed in 2020. We will instead look at an alternative celebration in 2021. The two designated sign out days for Year 12 are as follows:

Monday 16 November: 12RT, 12RW and 12RM  
and

Tuesday 17 November: 12RK, 12RB and 12RG

Please arrive between 10:00am - 12:00pm.

### ASSESSMENTS

School exam periods for Years 7-10 are currently taking place and Year 11 will have their first HSC assessment week in Week 9. All Year 11 students have received their HSC Assessment Book. Please read the information carefully and make sure you are familiar with the procedures for assessment tasks. All Year 11 students are also involved in scheduling a meeting with the Careers Adviser, Mr Mouzakis, this term to discuss their post high school pathway options. Students and parents in Years 9 and 10 must also understand and adhere to our new policy extension requiring illness/misadventure forms to be completed and submitted should an absence occur in the five school days leading up to an assessment block.

### VALID TESTING

Year 8 sit for the VALID test this month. VALID is an external national and online test for Science.

### SRE

Pending a review of COVID-19 guidelines this month, Special Religious Education (SRE) otherwise known as 'scripture' may be held on 24 November for Years 7 and 8 and on 1 December for Years 9 and 10. Further details for students will be given through the daily notices. As in previous years, Tech will offer scripture services from approved providers of Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Christian Studies once each term again in 2021. Students' scripture groups are collected at the start of Year 7 each year. Students, with the written permission from their families, are able to opt in/out of scripture groups at any time.

**Kirk Grinham**  
Deputy Principal

**Aphrodite Cox**  
Deputy Principal

**Paul Copeland**  
Rel Deputy Principal



# Excellence in Mathematics

Congratulations to the following students who achieved at the top of their Mathematics courses in their Term 3 examinations. Letters of commendation have been sent home to these students and they have received a bronze merit award from the Mathematics Faculty.

## Term 3

### Year 7

Araf Provat, Henry Duong, Nicholas Fung, Yusuf Mahdi, Jerry Chen, Binoy Saha, Troy Vo, Macquis Yu, Ethan Bastian, Eric Lee, Shourya Surana and Daniel Yang.

### Year 8

Newton Ly, Calvin Chen, Leon Gan, Suhash Kabir, Ridwan Quyyum, Aidan Tang, Sean Van Ummersen, Damien Vu, Anthony You, Araf Ahmed, Timothy Cai, Abubakar Mitha, Trint Ortega, Andrew Huang, Marcus Lara-Camara and Henry Savilla.

### Year 9

Sree Koneru, Phoenix Liu, Nicholas Maratos, Kaif Pathan Rizu, Aqeel Roshan, Shen Chi Tan, Stefan Ilic, Tejas Narayanan, Gene Truong, Zidane Zainuddin, Chris Cheng, William Cui, Peter Chae, Anthony Luo, Conrad Fong, Benson Liu, Zohair Akhunji and Ivan He.

### Year 10

Amin Tafech, Justin Tran, Dean Tripathi, Nicholas Chatterton, Neil Dadhich, Pavith Gunasekara, Will Hoo, Richard Quach, Nathan Tam, Dominick Widjaja, Terrence Zheng, Terry Rakis, David Chew, Parco Mok, Felix Lin, Rayaan Choudhry, Gino Su and Randy Wu

### Year 11

#### Advanced

Lawrence Bai, Huy Nguyen, Pranit Sarker, Sumen Ahmed, Justin Chin, Kayne Fong, Eric Lin, Christopher Liu, Anthony Tawdrous, Leo Li, Tan Thai and Haydn Gao.

#### Extension 1

Huy Nguyen, Rion Ullah, Ryotaro Nagai, Nathan Liu, Sumen Ahmed, Pranit Sarker, Anthony Tawdrous, Eric Lin, Hung Pham, Anson Qiu and Dennis Lai.

### Year 12 Trial HSC

#### Advanced

Justin Jovcevski, Steven Le, Habib Khan, Darren Lau, Dae-Yang Nguyen, Andrew Beh, Bilal Ibrahim, Dhushi Mohanathas, Bikal Shrestha, Tao Tao, Andy Li, Christopher Tang, Jacob Hong, Keegan Lim, Nestor Harilaou and Miguel Mariano.

#### Extension 1

Shaun Thach, Nathan Choon, Dinitha Weeraman, Aaron Cuta, Glenn Gao, Nathan Hartono, Derek Liu, Alvin Joseph, Christian Karalis, Dylan Mak, Zihao Zhou, Dhushi Mohanathas, Habib Khan, Steven Le, Darren Lau and Dae-Yang Nguyen.

#### Extension 2

William Zamany, Nathan Hartono, Christian Karalis, Shaun Thach, Wesley Yiu, George Kekatos, Matthew Lam, Jason Lim, Derek Liu, Andrew Tran and Jad Yagan.

**Keep up the fantastic work, boys!**

**Pamela Stergiou**

**Mathematics Faculty**



Nicholas Fung, Year 7, was recently awarded the Prize Certificate from the Australian Maths Trust for the 2020 Australian Mathematics Competition for the Junior Division. This is the top award that can be awarded for this competition.



## LIBRARY REPORT



## GREETINGS FROM THE CHARLES KINGSFORD SMITH LIBRARY

Elizabeth Greaves  
Relieving Teacher/  
Librarian

## Premier's Reading Challenge

Tech had 38 students complete the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) this year, which is an outstanding achievement in a year affected by Covid, when students may have been at home for months in Covid lockdown with no access to library books. Out of these boys, three achieved a gold award, eight achieved a platinum award and five will receive the coveted PRC Medal, which shows that they have completed the PRC consecutively every year from Year 3 through to Year 9. Well done!



## Term 4 Book Club

Tech's student-run book club is a safe space for discussion of not only the book that members have collectively read, but a place to discuss book themes - issues affecting teenagers in the world today. This term's book chosen by the club members is *We Were Liars* by E Lockhart, a psychological thriller exploring themes of friendship, trust, secrecy and family. The novel has received critical acclaim and won the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Young Adult Fiction. It was also

listed as part of the Australian Library Association (ALA) Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults. Get reading and join the group in Week 9 for a riveting discussion over lunch in Seminar Room 1 of the library (1:10pm) on Monday 7 December.



## Children's Book Week

The Children's Book Council celebrates the best new books for children each year with Book Week. This year, due to Covid, it was pushed back from Term 3 to Term 4, from 17-23 October. Our library has this year's selections in stock and on display at the entry along with National Book Award and Booker Prize winners. Students and staff are able to request books by filling out a request book located next to the copy machine/printer or online in our Oliver library system.







## READ

Our school begins each day with READ, in which students are asked to participate in silent, sustained reading for 20 minutes. To promote different genres of books, the READ committee of teachers developed various promotions for each term to showcase a variety of books and authors. In Term 3, we in the library promoted books by Indigenous authors or books with Indigenous characters. Term 4 is a celebration of action/adventure books, Raiders of the Lost Books. We invite students to check out the display and to continue to read widely to increase inferential skills and vocabulary.



## Intra-school Chess

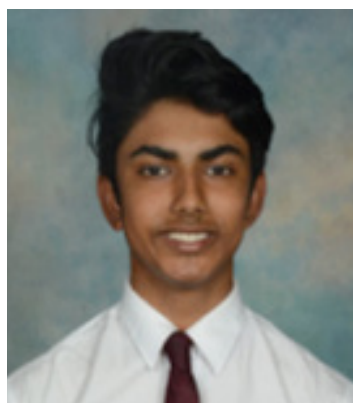
We are nearing the end of our annual weekly chess competition held in Terms 3 and 4. We will soon be able to crown a Tech Junior and Senior Chess Champion. Students play each Tuesday, and we are reaching the quarterfinals stage in Week 2, with the semi-finals and finals to follow.

Well done to those who participated this year and showed up each week! Thanks also goes to Sumen Ahmed who created the draw and who showed up each week to support the boys.



## Intra-School Chess

Thank you to Sumen Ahmed (Year 11) who coordinated our Intra-School Chess Competition this year, creating the draw, keeping track of scores and showing up to set up and encourage the competitors. Sumen has shown outstanding leadership. Year 9 or 10 students who'd like to volunteer to coordinate the comp in 2021 can see Mrs Greaves to discuss.



## Preliminary (Year 11) and HSC Study Guides with Past Papers for Loan

Our Year 11 and 12 students can borrow study guides for their HSC and preliminary courses from the library, but they are required to sign a contract as the books range from \$40-\$100+ each. We also



have books in our reference section, which students may use in the library. They often copy a few pages for practising skills. These resources are to assist them in their study of their courses. The library also has books on various kinds of tests such as entry into American universities (SAT) and medicine and law entry exams.



Week 1 of Term 4 was the last week in our Library for our Year 12 2020 students as they prepared for HSC exams. The library was a hive of activity with teachers and students engaged in

HSC workshops, group study sessions and individual preparation. This was the final week on campus for this cohort but we look forward to learning about their successes as they continue their academic endeavours into the future. Having taught many of them in English in Years 7, 8, 9 and/or 10, I was especially sad to see them go.

## Instagram

Be sure and follow our library on Instagram: @sydneytechlibrary for a focus on the latest books to hit our shelves, popular series news, contests, special promotions and displays and events such as speakers, pop-up libraries, closure for exams and more. We publish lots of student photos from chess comp, Write a Book in a Day, from classes who come in to use the library and just capturing students reading.



## Alumni Corner

Tech's Careers Guru, Mr Jerry Mouzakis, will be working with us in the library to create an Alumni Corner which will be near our magazines section.

We will house books by, and about, former Techies and also feature Old Boys who were musicians, with a small vinyl collection (donations welcome) and turntable with headphones for listening to former Techies who had recorded jazz, glam rock, pop, rock, cabaret or country tunes. Stay tuned and please send suggestions to us here at the library if you know an Old Boy who you think could be featured.





## Borrowing eBooks from ePlatform

Students and staff are able to borrow eBooks in two different ways. First, they can go into the student portal and click on My Library. It will take them to the Oliver library system site. They then need to sign in using their school username and password and to choose their school from a drop-down menu. eBooks can be borrowed for two weeks. Choose from over 10,000 books online, available 24/7. Some find it easier to download the free ePlatform app then to select TECH as their school and sign in using their school username and password.



## Children's Book Week

The Children's Book Council celebrates the best new books for children each year with Book Week. This year, due to Covid, it was pushed back from Term 3 to Term 4, from 17-23 October. Our library has this year's selections in stock and on display at the entry along with National Book Award and Booker Prize winners. Students and staff are able to request books by filling out a request book located next to the copy machine/printer or online in our Oliver library system.



## Pop Up Library...Coming Soon!

Pop Up Libraries are part of a new movement to bring books to the people and to take over outdoor spaces. This has especially been embraced in recent months as various countries experience 2nd or 3rd waves. In that spirit, Tech will be having a pop-up library in November in which books will be brought out to various areas such as The Quad or near the Basketball Courts. We will have some of the latest releases and popular novels or series for students to borrow and some bean bags for them to relax and read in.



## CAREERS REPORT



### YEAR 11 INTERVIEWS WITH CAREER ADVISER

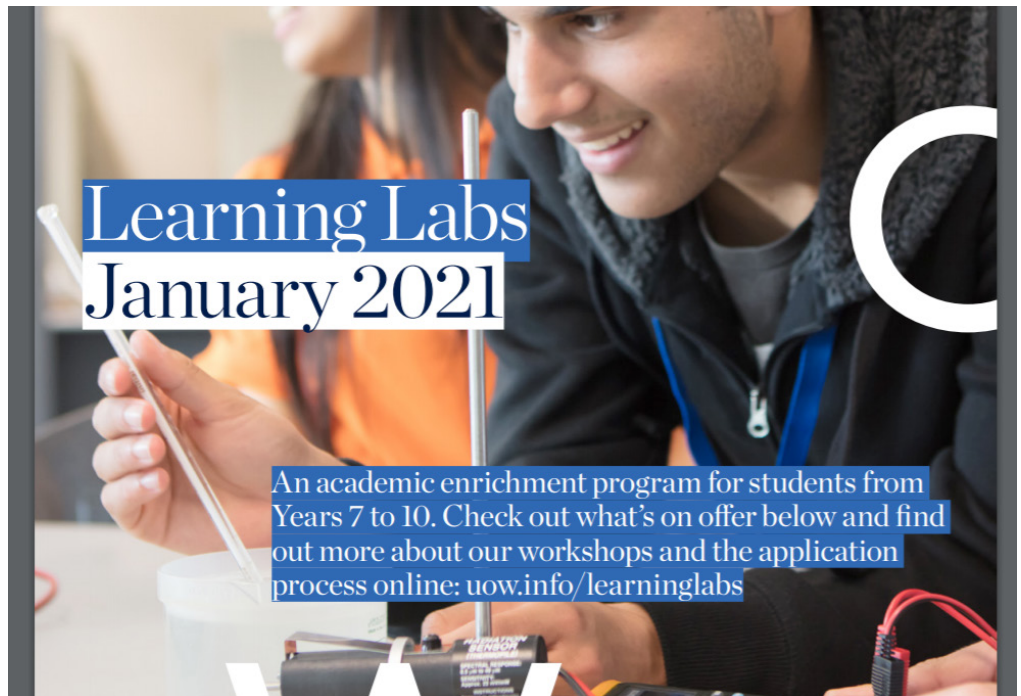
Year 11 students have been informed that they are required to attend a compulsory interview with the Careers Adviser prior to the end of this term. In this preliminary interview we will discuss their:

- Goals
- Subject selection
- Adjustment factors
- Educational access scheme and elite athlete or performer information
- Other tests that might be required – UCAT or LAT (we have UCAT resources in the library)
- Scholarships and cadetships

It is important to note that I am available to discuss any career related topics with students as they see fit and that this is not a one-off interview but rather one of many over the coming year.

### SOME EXTRACURRICULAR IDEAS TO CULTIVATE THE INTERESTS OF OUR STUDENTS.

Learning Labs is run by the University of Wollongong and is a face-to-face enrichment program designed for students who are excelling in their area of interest within their year group, and are seeking a challenging and fun experience during the school holidays.





## UNSW HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTING COURSE

Jumpstart your university computing degree the fun way!

Are you in year 10, 11 or 12 and want to get a head-start into the world of coding and programming?



UNSW SYDNEY

Engineering

### Computer Science and Engineering

UNSW's High School Computing (HS1917) course at the School of Computer Science and Engineering is Australia's most popular introduction to computing. You can complete the course alongside your school work and get a feel for university – while starting to build your degree!

<https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/computer-science-engineering/study-with-us/primary-high-school-programs/high-school-computing-hs1917>

## INTRODUCTION TO ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

You may have heard of actuarial science, or you might even know an



actuary, but do you know what an actuary does?

The actuarial profession is a very attractive option for students with a strong mathematical background, being both well remunerated and having an abundance of career path options. During this online course, created by Associate Professor Adam Butt, you will learn how actuaries use mathematical, statistical, economic and business knowledge to understand, quantify and manage financial risks. You will experience 'hands-on' learning using Excel (or an equivalent spreadsheet tool) to project and investigate the financial condition of a company, choosing appropriate strategies for the company through the use of simulations. You will also hear from a wide variety of actuaries about their careers.

College:	ANU College of Business and Economics
Areas of Interest:	Actuarial Studies
Location:	Online
Year group:	11-12
Date:	Flexible
Time:	The course consists of seven lessons around two hours each which can be completed at any time
Numbers:	Any number
Format:	Online course
Cost:	No cost

<https://www.anu.edu.au/study/events/introduction-to-actuarial-science>

## MOOC

M O O C

### MASSIVE

There may be 100,000+ students in a MOOC.

### OPEN

Anyone, anywhere can register for these courses.

### ONLINE

Coursework is delivered entirely over the Internet.

### COURSE

MOOCs are very similar to most online college courses.



Another resource to expand your area of interest is MOOC. MOOC is the massive open online course site that lists free online courses from numerous universities that could be completed over these holidays. <http://mooc.org/> Imagine writing on your resume that you have completed a 'Python' coding course from Stanford University or Data Science from Harvard.

**Jerry Mouzakis**  
Relieving Careers Adviser

## WELLBEING REPORT



Term 4 is well underway and our Year 12 students are nearly at the end of their HSC with the final exam being Friday 11 November 2020. Results will be available at the end of term on the last day. Unfortunately, this year we are unable to celebrate with our normal end of year morning tea due to Covid but the whole school community will be thinking of our Year 12 students on this day.

With end of year exams approaching for all other Year Groups, students are reminded to start preparing and revising now to help alleviate any stress or anxiety that can be overwhelming when studying is left till the last minute. There are plenty of useful resources and links available from Prue Salters ELES Study Skills Website [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) (Password: 686success) which we have been using in some of our Wellbeing Assemblies this term. Students can also come and speak to their class teacher, Year Adviser or other support staff from the Wellbeing Team if further assistance is required.

The holiday period tends to be a time when many young people use technology more frequently and intensely, as parents loosen boundaries on access to gaming and social media. As your son settles back into the school routine for Term 4, developing healthy digital habits can be challenging for some families. For this reason, I have included some helpful tips, courtesy of Jocelyn Brewers website, for parents to get control back.

<https://jocelynbrewer.com/back-to-school-tech-withdrawals-wrestling-back-control-and-the-controller/>

### HSC MENTOR SCHEME

Now that Year 11 students have officially moved into their HSC year, it's no secret that there will be countless demands, challenges and stress placed upon our Year 11 students in their final HSC year. For this reason, the school will be running the HSC Mentor scheme again coordinated by the Year 11 Adviser, Ms Bilton. Organisation for next year's HSC Mentor Scheme is already well underway this term with Ms Bilton matching up interested students from her year group with a teacher mentor. The mentor's role at Tech is to encourage, guide and use their vast knowledge and experience to assist students whenever the need arises. Students have been advised that the Mentor is not a substitute for the normal classroom teacher or traditional support networks that exist via the school's Wellbeing Team. A combination of small groups and individualised mentoring will continue for our Year 11 students in order to match up students to their chosen mentor. Thank you to Ms Bilton for all her organisation in getting the scheme up and running and for the volunteering staff who have made themselves available as mentors for our incoming Year 12s.

### R U OK? DAY

Tech has been a strong advocate for the R UOK? Day cause for a number of years now addressing mental health issues among our boys. This year we heard from Year 12 SRC leaders. Eric Napper, Dylan Alima, Dae-Yang Nguyen, George Kekatos, Emmanuel Takla and Ajey Aadarsh made an impressive contribution to this year's event at a whole school assembly. The students spoke about the challenges men face when seeking help for mental health issues in today's society and what we as a school community can do to help our mates when things are not okay. The more we understand and accept that mental illness is just like any other illness, the more likely people will



seek help and social attitudes will improve. R U OK? Day is an important event in enabling people to start conversations around this topic. The school were also provided with four simple tips to initiate a conversation (1) Ask, (2) Listen, (3) Encourage Action, and (4) Check to follow up on a friend who you may be concerned about.

The assembly concluded with Mr Cachia paying special tribute to the Anniversary of Ryan Wang who tragically lost his life on his way to school this time last year. On behalf of the whole school community our thoughts and prayers are with Ryan's family and friends during this time.

## PEER SUPPORT

On Thursday 29 October and Friday 30 October, all of Year 8 students will participate in the Peer Support Foundation's leadership training where they will be exposed to important skills and strategies around resilience, team work and communication. Coordinated by Ms Pamela Stergiou and facilitated by another 10 dedicated staff, this is a valued program that we then use to identify 60 new peer support leaders who will then take on additional responsibilities in the transition to high school of our new Year 7 students for 2021. At their most recent Wellbeing Assembly, all of Year 8 were informed of the program's expectations and aims as well as their own requirements over the two days should they wish to be offered a place amongst this leadership group.

## WELLBEING ASSEMBLIES

Wellbeing Assemblies continue this term for all students with the following events planned for Term 4;

- Year 7: 'Being a Man' - How to use feedback from exams to improve overall performance, and Cyber Safety/Games/Social Media.
- Year 8: Peer Support Training, Brainstorm's Production 'The Flipside', and High Resolves 'Videos for Change' presentations.
- Year 9: Exam Preparation/Study Skills, Drug Education Awareness session, and 'What to expect when going into Year 10'.
- Year 10: 'Exam Preparation/Time Management Skills', 'All My Own Work', and a Drug Education Awareness session.
- Year 11: University Pathways, Living a Balanced Life, and HSC assessments

## ATTENDANCE/LEAVE

Sydney Technical High School has high expectations of all of its students and this includes their attendance. The school must adhere to State and Federal legislature around this as it ensures all children up to the age of seventeen attend school. The demographics of the students at STHS mean that many are travelling long distances each day and rely on public transport that can sometimes be delayed. In these unforeseen instances, the school is always understanding. Where such understanding expires is when student absenteeism and/or lateness becomes too frequent. Students who know that their transport links are unreliable in allowing them to arrive on time to school every day are strongly encouraged to make alternative arrangements. This may mean walking and leaving home earlier. All students are allowed three instances of unexplained lateness to school every term before they will receive an after-school detention.

Students and their parents are reminded that any leave taken during the school day requires students to bring a note in the morning to the Deputy Principals where an early leave pass will be issued.

Students and their parents are also reminded that where extended leave needs to be taken (ie more than five days) students are required to fill out a special form which they can collect from their Year Adviser or Ms Cohen in the front office. This leave will need to be approved by the Principal.

**Nick Stokes**

**Head Teacher Wellbeing**



## P&C meetings will be ZOOM meetings until further notice

**The next ZOOM Meeting is on  
Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 7pm  
Meeting ID: 619 7573 0260  
Passcode: 135246**

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

2020 has been a memorable year for all the wrong reasons. Yet, it's also a year that really shows what the students, teachers and community of Sydney Tech is made of and what Tech Pride is all about.

First and foremost, I would like to wish all the Year 12 students (and any accelerated students) the very best of luck in their HSC exams. The whole school and its community have great faith in you all doing your best and getting the results you all deserve.

This year is also my son's final year at Sydney Tech, which also means my last year as well. It has been an honour to represent the P&C over the past three years as President and I thank everyone on the P&C committee as well as all the wonderful parents, teachers and staff who have helped along the way.

Throughout my three years as President, the P&C's focus was on encouraging a closer relationship between the parent community and the school.

This generally involved better communication between parents and also with the school (via the various social channels the P&C have established).

However, a large part of this was by creating more opportunities event in the school for parents, students and teachers to mix, be it the Welcome BBQ, the Mother's Day Morning Tea, the Father's Day Breakfast, Teacher's Appreciation Day and our support for the school bands' Musicales and Summer Ensemble. Unfortunately COVID-19 put a halt on (or limited) these activities in 2020. I hope all of these activities will be back in 2021.

Just because the P&C initiated and hosted events have decreased this year, it does not mean that the P&C was not busy trying to support the school. This year, the P&C shifted its focus to one of the big infrastructure projects that's been on the table for quite a few years but one that we and the school did not have the time to take on previously.

I'm proud to announce that the P&C has worked closely with the school this year to fund and install air conditioning units in the Auditorium. While the school's classrooms are scheduled to get air conditioning installed in the coming years via the government's cooler school program, the Auditorium is not part of this program. The Auditorium is used to host many internal and external events (Musicales, Presentation day, HSC examination room) and keeping it cool in the summer months has always been an issue. The newly installed air conditioning will allow the Auditorium to be a comfortable and welcoming venue for students, staff and guests of the school in the years to come. The installation was completed in the Term 3 school holidays, just in time to provide the year 12 students a better environment to sit their HSC exams this year (after a tough year for them).

The P&C has also applied for and received the Volunteer/Community Grant. With this grant, the P&C will look to refresh the kitchen fit out in the Common Room as well as purchase a few new BBQs ready for the P&C to host events in 2021. We thank Linda Burney MP (Federal member for Burton) for her continued support of our school in approving this grant.

This year, the P&C working closely with the school has continued our partnership with the other surrounding schools and P&Cs in the Hurstville area in continuing the fight to improve pedestrian and road safety in the Hurstville school precinct. Chris Minns (State member for Kogarah) has been a strong advocate for this project and we thank him for keeping in touch with us and keeping our concerns in front of those who can help make a change.



For a strange and quiet year, the P&C has still been keeping busy throughout the year.

Thank you everyone for allowing me to represent the P&C for the past three years and with the fantastic P&C committee and all the wonderful parents who have helped out along the way, I know it is in good hands for the years to come.

## Next P&C Meeting/Annual General Meeting

The next P&C meeting would normally be the P&C's AGM. However due to in person attendance restriction, it is logistically a little more difficult to host the AGM via Zoom. The Committee has decided to delay the AGM until the start of 2021 and hopefully by then there will be less restrictions and we can have an in person AGM at the school.

The November meeting will therefore be a standard P&C Meeting (on Zoom) and will be held on Tuesday 3 November 7pm.

## 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

## Music Ensemble News

**Guitar Ensemble:** currently running rehearsals on Monday afternoon from 3:05-4:05

**String Ensemble:** currently running rehearsals on Thursday afternoon from 3:05-4:30

**Stage Band:** currently running rehearsals on Thursday afternoon from 3:05-4:05

**Beginner Band:** currently running rehearsals on Friday afternoon from 2:25

**Beginner Band** will have their Beginner Band Graduation Concert on Friday afternoon Week 5 (13 November). This will be filmed and streamed to parents.

**Concert Band** will run a full ensemble rehearsal from Monday afternoon Week 6 (16 November) in the auditorium from 3:05-4:30

**Intermediate Band** will run smaller instrumental groups (including Beginner Band students) from Tuesday afternoon Week 6 (17 November) in the auditorium from 3:05-4:30

# 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 10 November. 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**





READ time,  
outside lesson  
time, recess time,  
exam time.

Photos courtesy of  
teachers at school

