

tech talk november 2021

Sydney Technical High School



PRINCIPAL NEWS

Steven So
Principal

Welcome Back to Face to Face

Sydney Technical High School warmly welcomed back staff and students from a 17 week hiatus from face to face teaching. Although online learning was very well received, the smiles on the faces of everyone spoke volumes about the importance of social connection between the members of the school. I am very proud of being Principal of such an optimistic and resilient community and I would like to thank our wonderful parents for their efforts in assisting us when students were at home.

HSC 2021

I would like to wish our Year 12 class of 2021 all the very best, going into their upcoming Higher School Certificate examinations. I know each student will give their personal best and walk out of each exam happy with the effort they have put in. I acknowledge the extraordinary conditions this year group have had to endure both last year and also this year and I can say on behalf of the community, we are proud of each of you.

Best wishes Year 12!

World Teacher's Day

I would like to acknowledge the work of our talented and devoted staff on World Teacher's day on 29 October 2021. This year has been particularly difficult due to extended lockdown where educational delivery was purely online. Every teacher had to re-adjust their focus and re-think the normal to deliver effective theory, practicals, projects and assessment. I'm able to confirm our Strategic Improvement Plan Strategic Direction 3 – Innovation has had thorough attention.

P&C Thanks

A tremendous thank you to the P&C committee for providing staff very generous "thank you" gift vouchers. The acknowledgement from our parents meant a lot to staff members as pedagogy has had so many twists and turns throughout the year. The generosity and thought of our P&C are very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank the P&C for the support of EDROLO – a program which is vital in supporting our Senior students in HSC subjects. EDROLO allows students access to interactive videos, theory, formative assessment, exam practice and analytics.

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Road Safety

Local principals and Department of Education officials, Counsellors from Georges River and Bayside Council and Office Members from Chris Minns MP office met to discuss action to implement safer roads in the “Educational precinct”. It was agreed a traffic survey would be done to ascertain traffic and pedestrian flow and density to inform planning for a more permanent and safer crossing structure on Forest Road. I will inform the community as more information arises.

In the meantime, I ask parents to exercise caution when driving in school zones and dropping off and picking up your son from school. We have noticed a significant increase in traffic due to more students being driven to and from school than normal.

Welcome

I'd like to warmly welcome Nadia Vares, who joins our counselling team during Term 4 as a valuable new member. I know our community will join with me to make her feel at home.



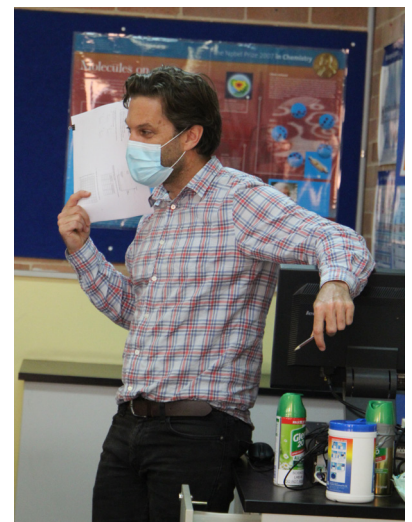
Congratulations

Congratulations to Genya Sugowdz, Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, who has been successful in gaining a promotion position to the Department of Education for a period of two years. From Monday 9 November Genya will lead a team as Curriculum Adviser of Legal Studies as part of a program called the HSC Strategy that will support teachers across the State. The position acknowledges her excellent teaching practice and leadership at Tech and we wish her all the very best.

Steven So
Principal



Teachers Back In Action





YOUR WELLBEING @ TECH

Mitch Davis
Relieving HT Wellbeing

Term 4 is well underway and we have now successfully transitioned back to the classroom. While in lockdown, students had various opportunities to engage in healthy behaviours. Year Advisers posted tips for staying active, relaxing, reading, mindfulness and organisation of school work on the Wellbeing Hubs. I encourage all students to continue these positive routines as we return to the classroom. Ms Cox's Wellbeing Wednesday activities encouraged staff and students to prioritise their wellbeing while in lockdown. Well done to all students and staff who took time to enhance their wellbeing through this fantastic initiative.

As Term 4 progresses, our Year 12 students are nearly at the end of their HSC year. They have done a tremendous job preparing for their exams with unprecedented challenges. Our junior school did a fantastic job adjusting to end of year exams online. A reminder to students that there are plenty of useful resources and links available from Prue Salters ELES Study Skills Website:

www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

Username: STHS Password: 686success.

There is access to some fantastic resources that assist with organising yourself and classwork.

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 lockdown and holiday periods tend 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 Brewer's 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 is 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 Cheryle Steel.

Organisation for next year's HSC Mentor Scheme is already well underway this term with Ms Steel 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 Steel 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.

Mitch Davis
Relieving HT Wellbeing

FROM THE DEPUTIES



Kirk Grinham
Deputy Principal



Alison Peachey
Deputy Principal



Aphrodite Cox
Deputy Principal

return to school

It has been such a wonderful first week back and we are all so glad to see your sons back at school. Greeting them on their way into our grounds each morning has been very positive and the fact that they are adhering to our guidelines and changes to routine has been most respectful.

Our students are correctly wearing their sport uniform on the days when timetabled PE lessons are scheduled for practical lessons. Our students are enjoying each other's company in class and in the playground after so many months have passed.

We wish to remind you that our school rules around the wearing of blazers has not changed. All year round, it is the outer layer garment. If a student is wearing a jumper, it is only if it is underneath their blazer or if they are in their PE uniform. These warmer days and additional PE practical lessons will mean that the students should be getting more active and sweaty than usual. An extra wash cycle of these items each week may be required.

Additionally, students' use of their mobile devices during break times is also not permitted. These break times, in particular after so much time in front of screens during remote learning, must stay in their bags. We ask you to remind them of the importance of this.

Wellbeing Wednesday is still a huge focus and we are strongly encouraging our students to make the most of this beautiful weather and get active in their own way after lessons end and while school sport is still in hiatus.

When further announcements of changes to school restrictions occur, we will continue to keep you all updated. In the meantime, we are most appreciative of your ongoing support of our school community and are very grateful of your efforts throughout remote learning.

Assessments

School exam periods for Years 7-10 took place online in Week 3 prior to their return to school. Year 11 will have their first HSC assessment week in Week 10 following the conclusion of the HSC exams for Year 12. 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 should also schedule a meeting with the careers adviser, Mr Mouzakis, during a study period

this term to discuss their post high school pathway options. Students and parents in Year 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.

SRE

Special Religious Education (SRE) otherwise known as 'scripture' may be held later this month however, it is unlikely that this will operate under current restrictions. We will keep you updated. 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 2022. 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.

K Grinham
Deputy Principals

Year 12

The rescheduled Year 12 HSC exams will commence this month. Unfortunately, the delayed schedule also means a delayed publication of the results means that our traditional morning tea cannot proceed in 2021. We will instead look at an alternative celebration very early in 2022. The two designated sign out days for Year 12 will follow the conclusion of the exams in early December. We are very glad to be able to provide graduation celebrations for our Year 12 students including our annual luncheon at Doltone House on Friday 3 December 2021.

A Peachey

A Cox

SCHOOL CALENDAR Term 4 - 2021

9 November - 1 December: HSC Written Examinations

Due to the current lockdown situation, most events have been cancelled or postponed. Some events may be online so please stay tuned for up to date information via email.

All Musical ensembles have been cancelled for the rest of 2021.

Looking forward to the resumption of Music in a big way in 2022.



WORLD OF CAREERS

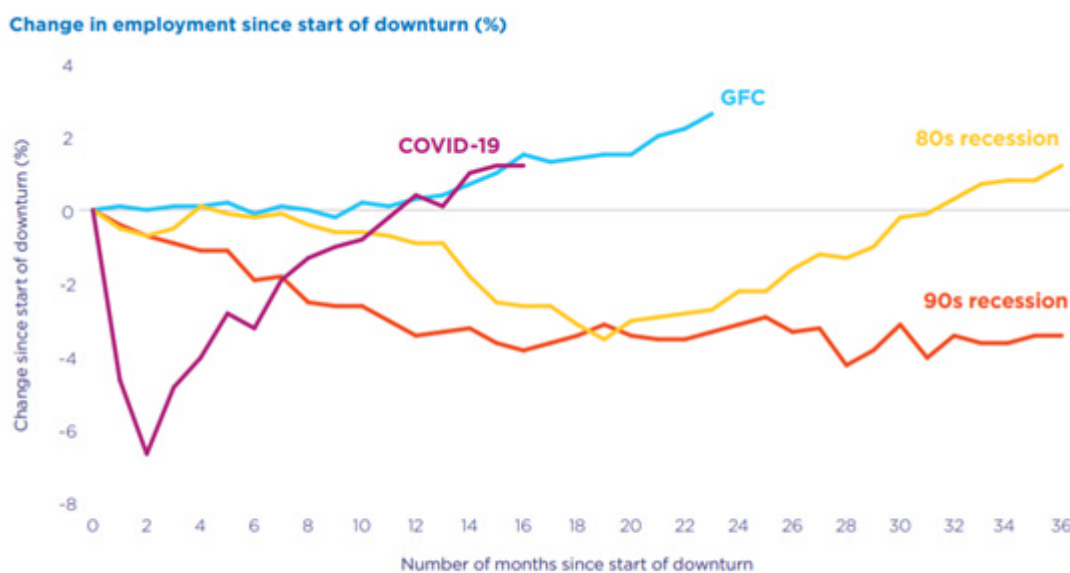
Jerry Mouzakis
Relieving Careers Adviser



The Australian Government publishes “Australian Jobs” yearly. This publication provides an overview of trends in the labour market to aid the future job seeker to make informed decisions about the areas of job need. This is a summary of the publication and it is extremely important as it should provide ideas for the destinations of our students.

The Covid pandemic had a significant initial negative effect on the labour market with employment falling much more quickly than in previous recessions but the labour market has subsequently rebounded very quickly as seen in the next graphic.

From our destination survey of the class of 2020, we can confirm that all our students went to university and the breakdown per industry is shown in the graph below. It shows that all our students chose a career path in the top five employment areas in our State.



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, July 2021, seasonally adjusted data.

The area of the report that is of most interest to our current students is that of the emerging occupations. Our current students can be at the forefront by investigating these jobs and seeing if they fit into their skills and interests.

Emerging occupations identified by the National Skills Commission



Digital Deepening

- Digital Marketing Specialists
- Social Media Specialists
- User Experience Analysts



Data Analytics

- Data Analysts
- Data Scientists
- Data Engineers
- Data Architects
- Pricing Analysts



Emerging Business Practices

- Agile Coaches
- Devops Engineers
- Logistics Analysts



Regulatory

- Risk Analysts
- Regulatory Affair Specialists
- Energy Auditors
- Compensation and Benefits Analysts



Health

- Respiratory Therapists
- Nurse Liaisons
- Biostatisticians



Sustainability Engineering and Trades

- Solar Installers
- Energy Efficiency Engineers
- Wind Turbine Technicians
- Hazardous Materials Labourers



Refreshing ANZSCO

- Fundraisers
- Researchers
- Research Assistants

As a final remark, this publication is a valuable resource to make sure that your career opportunity clashes with the jobs that will be available in your area.

For our context, youth (persons aged between 15-24) were particularly hard hit by the pandemic. The younger age group was impacted as the pandemic affected the services industries and the university leavers were impacted as they tend to have fewer skills and less experience and are often the first to be retrenched during an economic downturn.

New South Wales is the largest employing state in Australia. Sydney accounts for almost 70% of the state's employment. Greater Sydney has the most highly educated workforce with around 46% with a Bachelor degree or higher.

The top five employing industries in NSW are:

New South Wales



Top 5 employing industries	Employ't May 2021	Share of total	5 year change to May 2021	
	'000	%	'000	%
Health Care and Social Assistance	566.8	14	70.6	14.2
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	463.4	11	107.2	30.1
Education and Training	394.7	9	75.8	23.8
Retail Trade	394.4	9	13.0	3.4
Construction	350.4	8	7.6	2.2

By Industry for Class of 2020



■ Health ■ Professional ■ Education ■ Construction

From our destination survey of the class of 2020, we can confirm that all of our students went to university and the breakdown per industry is shown in the graph on this page. It shows that all of our students chose a career path in the top five employment areas in our State.

Jerry Mouzakis
Relieving Careers Adviser



P&C CHAT

Matthew Jensen
Vice President

Isn't it fantastic that school has resumed for our boys. At last they can see their friends and teachers and learn face to face again. While this comes with challenges, it is good to know that the school has worked hard with them and for them over the lockdown.

As a token of our appreciation for the staff, the P&C (under the organisation of Harsha Yardav) gave each of the staff a gift voucher, for a local coffee shop, so they could have a delicious coffee and pastry on us. We did this on Friday 29 October which was when we celebrated Staff Appreciation Day.

A few members of the parent body and boys also recorded a brief video for the staff thanking them for the tireless work. Thanks Harsha for your work to make this happen.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 2 November via zoom.

At this meeting our special guest presenter will be Debbie Demetriades, Head Teacher of English at Tech. Ms Demetriadis will be speaking about how the Stage 4 and Stage 5 programs underpin Stage 6 (the only compulsory subject for the HSC) and some of the strategies that the English Faculty uses to prepare our students for the senior course.

So please come along. The zoom details are:

Meeting ID: 845 2612 5410

Passcode: 230501

I hope to see you at our meeting,

Matthew Jensen
P&C President

Upcoming P&C is on Tuesday
2 November 2021 starting at 7:00pm via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 845 2612 5410

Pass code: 230501

Looking forward to seeing you via ZOOM

All parents are welcome.

There will also be a P&C meeting on Tuesday 7 December 2021
Parents will be notified with details for this meeting prior to the date.



NEWS FROM THE CHARLES KINGSFORD SMITH LIBRARY

Elizabeth Greaves
Relieving Teacher/Librarian for Fran Cato

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

Sydney Tech has had 51 boys complete the PRC this year! Well done!

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read more and to read more widely. Current rules state that students in Years 7-9 must read 20 books in the year with half of them coming from a list of quality books at their reading level. The reading lists are found on PRC's website. Due to Covid, PRC increased the number of books that students could read "off list" from 5-10 book.

We encourage boys to start reading now for 2022 PRC. Reading logs are found online on the Premier's Reading Challenge site on the student portal, and the library has printed copies of reading logs should students wish to insert them in a notebook to keep track of books read until the PRC officially opens in March of next year.



Students who completed the 2021 PRC:

Year 7: Nuhash Kabir, Prem Khandelwal, Rishi Krishnan, Lleyton Lui, Uzair Mohammed, Saakheth Raghunathan, Diren Sarathchandra, Safowan Shahed, Terrence Tran, Marcus Tsaccounis, Rafan Ullah, Srisahishnu Varanasi, Angus Wong and Robin Zou.

Year 8: Adam Ajami, Aariz Anowar, Shayaan Ansari, Ethan Bastian, James Bui, Nicholas Fung, Sahej Grewal, Edward He, Nathan Lee, Frederick Liauw, Sean Lim, Daniel Lin, Frank Ling, Bryan Liu, Aaron Mei, Toluwani Omotade, Araf Provat, Jack Ruan, Shadi Sayrafi, Troy Vo and Derek Zhou.

Year 9—Taha Chalak, Suhash Kabir, Zubair Khan, Neeraj Margani, Ezzekai Okoli, Toby Ong, Brennan Park, Vincent Shi, Darsh Singhal, Adrian Tu and Thomas Zlater.

Year 10— Daniel Ajami, Charlie Do, Raif Hasan, Stefan Ilic and MD Nafis Khan.



Senior Study in the Library

Halloween Reads



It is a great time of year for a spooky story so check out our displays of popular horror or mystery titles!



Wheeler's ebooks – access to over 10,000 ebooks!

There are two ways students can access these resources. They can log into Oliver Library (within their student portal) and either perform an Advanced Search or browse the Reading Lists for eResources. Alternatively, they can download the free app ePlatform Wheelers onto their device, select our school from drop-down menu then sign in using their school email and password. Our eResources can be borrowed and returned within either Oliver or the eLibrary and loans made in either platform will be listed under Current loans in Oliver until the item is returned.

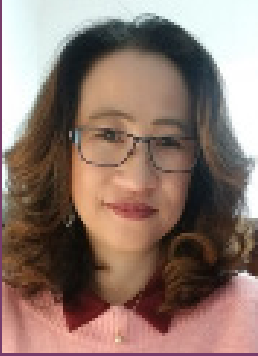
10 October was Mental Health Awareness Day. A new addition to the digital Library this year is the Wellness Collection. This includes specific fiction and non-fiction titles on topics such as mindfulness, depression, anxiety, etc. These resources could be useful to some students, especially those who are going through HSC preparation and who still feel stressed about the recent lockdown and its effect on their learning and social life.



The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this passport that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy, and ignorance.

– Libba Bray

As November approaches (or should we say MOvember), we, in the library, salute the students and staff who grow moustaches this month to raise awareness of men's health issues such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide.



SSO REPORT

Nan Chen, Student Support Officer (SSO)

Contact Email: tan.chen1@det.nsw.edu.au

Summary:

October included the term break and more online learning. Then a return onsite with the Year 12 study bubbles, followed by the remaining cohorts in Week 4. November marks the return to normal and the HSC.

SSO General Update:

Welcome back to onsite learning students! I am so pleased to be able to come to school, just like you. It's been a long 3.5 months. I am glad we can return to some normality. Thank you for following the new safety rules and listening to STHS staff.

I have set up a station in the library hub (office). Feel free to drop by for a chat or a free snack! If I'm not there, just leave me a note on my desk and I'll get back to you as soon as possible. I am also preparing some noticeboards in the library entrance and Block A foyer to keep you informed.

Good luck with all your exams, particularly our STHS HSC candidates, and have a wonderful Term 4 everyone!



External Services:

So you may have heard of Headspace. Do you know there is also an online and telephone version called eheadspace?



It provides free confidential counselling and support services to young people 12-25 years of age. So if you have a problem, you can chat with someone who cares.

<https://headspace.org.au/eheadspace/>



Troubleshooting Guide:

Having trouble putting down your device? Do you have an urge to check your phone at inappropriate times? Want to concentrate better?

Try these tips:

- **Delete** as many apps as you can. It will free up space.
- **Remove** unnecessary push notifications/disruptions.
- Make your **passwords long** and arduous.
- If you need reminders, **use a watch** instead (with an alarm).
- **Write it down** manually. The craft of penmanship takes time.

Study Tips:

- Write it down. Trust me, you won't forget anything then.
- Find a planner that works for you. Everyone is unique.
- Use a checklist. It feels great to tick tasks off as done!
- Remember, preparation is key.
- Ask a buddy how they studied well. Maybe you can learn something from each other.

Wellbeing Tips:

- Factor in travelling time to your return-to-school schedule.
- Practice standard safety procedures whilst at school.
- Give yourself time to get back into a good routine.
- Reward yourself regularly.
- Watch out for your mates.
- Put that device away.
- Sleep enough hours.

Feedback:

Remember, I am new so I'm learning all about your school and what your needs are, no matter how big or small. If you don't tell me, I won't know and can't help you. So let us work together.

Remember: Feedback is always welcome. Contact your SSO for any help or to give suggestions!

Program Update:



Thanks for the students who participated in the **ME Club (Juniors)** and gave me their suggestions. It went well in general. However, as it officially ended in Term 3, Term 4 did not really take off - particularly with all the uncertainty about the return to school onsite. I am also yet to start the Senior version of the club.

As it is the exam period now and timetables have been changing to factor in additional bell times to allow students to move safely between classes. We may yet start the senior ME club later. Depending on schedules, exams and the safety rules, I am happy to run a live in-person version of the club when exams are over, cohort by cohort if needed. I'll keep you posted.

SCHOOL NOTICES WHILE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE

VISITORS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON SITE

**PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL SITE
UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**

If you have any queries, please phone or email the school.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A PAYMENT THE SCHOOL
REQUESTS AT THIS TIME, AND IT IS PREFERABLE, THAT ALL
PAYMENTS BE MADE ONLINE.**

SCHOOL SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

**THE SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP IS CLOSED DUE TO DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO VISITORS TO SITE.**

WE WILL INFORM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY WHEN IT IS NEXT OPEN.

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.

AT THIS TIME OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RESTRICTIONS,
PAYMENTS TO THE BUILDING FUND AND LIBRARY FUND CAN BE MADE:

- on line via the school website - Parent Online Payment (POP)
 - <https://sths.nsw.edu.au>