

# Tech Talk September 2020

## Sydney Technical High School



### FROM THE PRINCIPAL



SRC elections for Year 7-11 have now been finalised and I wish to congratulate each and every successful candidate. Our induction ceremony via Zoom will occur next Friday. Congratulations to our newly elected Prefects and Senior Prefects and captain, Daniel Nemani, and Vice Captain Ambrose Konstantinidis. I very much look forward to working closely with them to lead the student body in 2021. I know they will do a stellar job.



L-R: Daniel Nemani (Captain) and Ambrose Konstantinidis (Vice Captain)



L-R: Liam Truong, Huy Nguyen, Christopher Bisseh, Deon Argiratos, Zachary Favorito, John Vassiliadis, Daniel Nemani, Ambrose Konstantinidis, Sandy Mititelu, Alastair Ho, Marco Lam and Daniel Jensen

The Year 12s have completed their trial HSC Examinations. This marks their final assessment task and last few weeks of learning at Sydney Technical High School. I wish to note the maturity and resilience of each student as they successfully managed to overcome the many challenges 2020 has placed in their path whilst continuing to excel in their academic studies. Congratulations to the Year 12s who have truly embodied our school motto "Manners Makyth Man".

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I would like to acknowledge Linda Burney MP for taking time to visit our school to officially open our revitalised cricket nets last week. She spoke with our newly elected prefect body, and senior cricket team about her support of the grant funding the project. Her continued support of our school is much appreciated.



Great thanks to Chris Minns MP for attending our school to meet and update us about the traffic situation. We appreciate his ongoing support for funding many of our projects here at Sydney Technical High School.



Last week was School Administration Support Staff (SASS) appreciation week and I would like to recognise and thank each member of the team for their hard work which is vital to the seamless running of the school. They have performed an absolutely amazing job in light of the difficulties of this year and always go above and beyond to assist our school community with a smile.

**Steven So** Thank you!  
Principal



Some of the treats we received during SASS Appreciation Week

## SCHOOL CALENDAR - Term 3 - 2020

### September

- 1 Intraschool Chess Tournament
- 1 P&C Zoom Meeting
- 3 Year 10 Vaccination Day
- 7 HSC Musical Practical Examination
- 8 Second Hand Uniform Shop
- 11 HSC Musical Practical Examination
- 14 Library Book Club

### September

Week 8 and 9 (7-18 September) - Year 11 Assessments

The following events clubs have resumed in their usual format.

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

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

**ALL BAND AND CHOIR PRACTICES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED FOR TERM 3.**

**GUITAR ENSEMBLES (MONDAY) AND STRINGS ENSEMBLE (THURSDAYS) WILL CONTINUE.**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT



## ELMO LANDSBERGER CRICKET NETS OPENING

In 2019, we were very fortunate to receive a grant from the Office of The Hon Linda Burney MP Federal Member for Barton to upgrade and resurface our practice cricket wickets. The works were completed during the summer

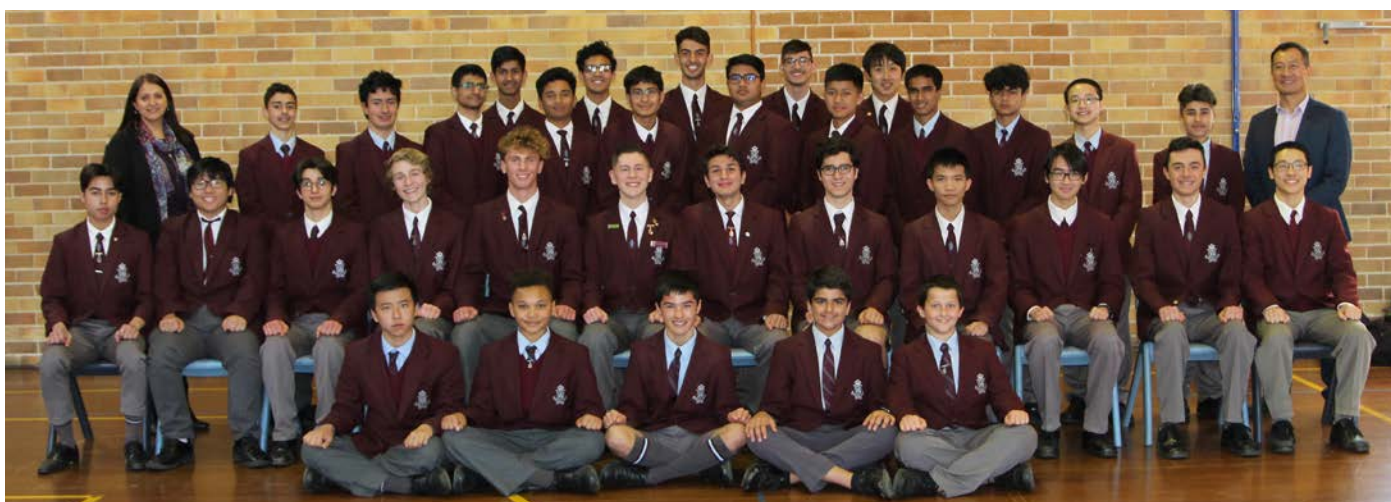


holidays and our students are happy and grateful for the upgrade. On 18 August, Ms Burney joined us for an official opening of the cricket wickets. We had an official ceremony and Ms Burney took the opportunity for some photos and to speak with members of our Opens Cricket Team and the newly elected Prefects. More photos Page 6.



## SRC ELECTIONS

Thank you to all students who nominated to be SRC representatives for their year groups. Voting closed last Friday and elected representatives were announced. Congratulations to you all, particularly to our newly elected School Captain Daniel Nemani and Vice Captain Ambrose Konstantinidis. We know you will be excellent leaders and role models for the school.



SRC 2021 - Elected representatives from Years 9, 10 and 11

## SUBJECT SELECTION

Subject selections for Year 10 moving into Year 11 in 2021 are being finalised. We are currently looking at numbers of students selecting each subject to determine which classes will run and which are not viable.

Subject selections for Year 8 into 9 were due last week. The class lists for each subject in both of these years will be finalised early in Term 4. Changes may be made during Term 4 only if there is room in the class students wish to enter.

## FINAL EXAMS FOR YEARS 7-10

Yearly exams will be held for Years 7-10 early in Term 4. Year 10 yearly exams will be held in Week 3, Year 7 in Week 4, Year 9 will be conducted in Week 5 and Year 8 in Week 6. All students should begin to make study notes or revision notes as preparation for the exams. Students should make use of the extra free time they have during the school holidays to help prepare for these exams and practise exam-type questions.

### Year 11 in Terms 3 and 4

The Year 11 final assessment period will begin in Week 8 of Term 3, from Monday 7 September. The timetable for the exams is currently being designed and will be distributed to students when it is finalised. These tasks are the final assessments for the preliminary courses for all students in Year 11. The beginning of Term 4 is the start of the HSC courses for these students. Official assessment tasks for the HSC will begin in Term 4.

Students need to complete a minimum of 10 units for the HSC. All Year 11 students are to enter their HSC subjects/units by returning the sheet issued to them at a recent year meeting by Friday 4 September to the box outside Ms Wilson's office. This needs to include any units being picked up and any accelerated courses undertaken. Please be mindful of the eligibility policy. Changes to subjects will occur in Term 4, from the beginning of Week 3. Year 11 students who drive to school or are a passenger in a car driven by another student, must see Ms Wilson in Term 4 to collect the correct permission letter. These forms must be completed, signed by parents and returned as soon as possible.

**Kirk Grinham**  
Deputy Principal

**Diane Wilson**  
Deputy Principal

**Aphrodite Cox**  
Deputy Principal

## YEAR 12 HSC PREPARATION

Year 12 are preparing for the countdown to the HSC. Exams begin on Tuesday 20 October and conclude on Wednesday 11 November. Students should take on board the valuable feedback provided from the recent Trial HSC examinations in order to make improvements. Students studying Languages, Visual Arts, Music, and Design and Technology have already completed or are about to complete the practical component of their HSC. Year 12 recently had a meeting about the final days of school, graduation, the HSC days, misadventure, signing out and requirements for a safe conclusion to their school life. A letter has also been emailed to parents.

We are ever mindful of the impact COVID-19 has had on all students, in particular our HSC students. Information is available on the NESA website to clearly answer parents' questions about the HSC exams.

- COVID-19 advice for HSC
- COVID-19 safe exams
- COVID-19 illness or misadventure

The health and wellbeing of HSC students is more important than any exam, which is why we are encouraging students to:

- Stay connected
- Take time out for rest or exercise
- Ask for help

Further information for students is available on the NESA website <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/covid-19/coronavirus-advice/hsc>



SRC 2021 Leaders - Back Row L-R: Deon Argiratos, Huy Nguyen, Daniel Nemani (Captain), Ambrose Konstantinidis (Vice Captain), Zachary Favorito, Daniel Jensen  
Front Row L-R: Marco Lam, Alastair Ho, John Vassiliadis, William Mititelu, Christopher Bisseh, Liam Truong

# Elmo Landsberger cricket nets

The popular Elmo Landsberger cricket nets are located in the back oval of the school and this year they have been fully refurbished, with some much needed improvements. The astro turf (synthetic fibres made to look like grass) was peeling off, exposing the concrete underneath and resulting in unnatural bounce. The cricket nets came into the new year with a fully refurbished synthetic turf. It was funded with the money given to the school from the program called 'Share our Space', a program where the school grounds remain open during school holidays for the enjoyment of the public. This program provides a grant to devote solely to improving school grounds. In addition, the school also applied for a grant from the government, to cover the remaining funds.

Since the cricket net refurbishment hasn't officially had a commemoration, a small ceremony was held on Tuesday, 18 August. Among the attendees were the Open A cricket team (the regular users of the nets), P&C president Mr Warren Mac, Mr Brown (coach to the school's Open A cricket team), Deputy Principal Ms Wilson, the school media team, senior prefects for 2021 and special guest, The Honorable Linda Burney, local MP for Barton. The ceremony recognised the extraordinary work of the people involved without whom the refurbishment would never have been possible. Among those who were recognised were, Sydney Technical High School's Business Manager, Ms Jacqui Thompson, who kindly wrote the grant application to the government, Mr Grinham, 'the cricket guru' as described by Ms Wilson, who negotiated with the companies to work out what change would be appropriate for the school as well as trying to fit it in with the budget, and the Hon Linda Burney, who helped with the funding for the nets.

The Hon Linda Burney gave an address at this small ceremony, congratulating the senior prefects, acknowledging the cricket team, and thanking John, a senior prefect, for the Acknowledgement to Country, and the chairman of the assembly, Deon. Linda Burney was a schoolteacher herself, and loves to play cricket, and has been playing since she was very young, although she doesn't prefer the harder leather balls the players use.

Mr Brown chose Rayyan, from Year 11, to hold the rope with Ms Wilson as he had the cleanest whites. The Hon MP Linda Burney conducted the honours, and the rope was cut, officially signifying the opening of the refurbished nets.



Mr Mac, the P&C president, shared his thoughts on the refurbishment of the cricket nets. "I think it is brilliant, it's great for the school to have such facilities. Hopefully there'll be more teams around in future." He himself has been playing cricket for over 38 years and he loves playing.

This has been a major refurbishment to the school grounds. "It may look like a bit of fake grass to the average person who knows nothing about cricket," said Ms Wilson, "but all the work gone into the nets has the cricket team very grateful for its refurbishment."

The nets will continue to inspire future generations of cricket players and foster their love for cricket, like it has done for many years in the past.

**Tejas Narayanan**  
Year 9  
Media Team

**All photos in this TechTalk of the opening of the Elmo Landsberger cricket nets were supplied by Sadek Medlej and Jason Zhao from the Digital Media Team as well as photos taken by office staff.**





## CAREERS REPORT



Earlier this year, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) presented a report to the World Economic Forum regarding the career aspiration of teenagers. The title of the report: 'Dream Jobs? Teenage Career Aspirations and the Future of Work'.

According to the report, "47% of boys and 53% of girls surveyed in 41 countries expect to work in one of the ten popular jobs by the age of 30." The figures are based on the latest Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) survey of 15 year olds.

For boys, the top ten occupations has not changed from the previous survey of 20 years ago. They were - based on popularity - Engineers, Business Managers, Doctors, ICT professionals, Sportspeople, Teachers, Police Officers, Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Lawyers and Architects.

These findings suggest that traditional 20th century occupations still capture the imaginations of young people as they did 20 years ago. In this era of social media, COVID and the acceleration of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, we need students to move away from narrow vocational choices and to consider broader options and be more creative about designing their life.

Students, foster your curiosity, explore non-traditional occupations and have persistence and optimism. The role of the careers adviser is to support young people to achieve not only academic excellence, but build the agile mindset, confidence, resilience, optimism and luck (Seneca - "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity") which will help them go on to greatness in their adult life.

Although this process is nearing the end for the current Year 12 cohort, all Year 11 students will need to meet with me for a compulsory careers interview where we can begin to add complexity to their stated goals from the Academic Adviser interview held in Year 10. For our junior students, continue to peruse the careers newsletter 'The Oracle' and explore the career options and extracurricular activities which are available to expand your areas of interest.

**Jerry Mouzakis**  
Relieving Carrers Adviser

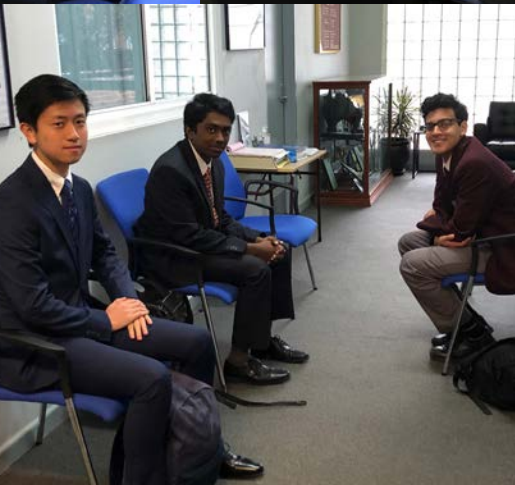




# year 10 academic adviser interviews



Academic Adviser Meetings are an important part of the year for students in Year 10 who are about to choose subjects for their preliminary and HSC years. Covid did not put a stop to these interviews. Rather than have the interviews in the library on the one day, the interviews were held over a few days and students were interviewed by Deputy Principals and Careers Adviser.



## WELLBEING REPORT



### OUTGOING YEAR 12 ADVISER

As the Year 12 Class of 2020 completes their final weeks of school at Tech, it is important that we recognise and congratulate their Year Adviser for the past six years, Mr Shane Gamage, on his commitment to the academic and personal development of these students, most of whom arrived here way back in 2015. On behalf of the school community – the many students, staff and parents who have been put at ease with the knowledge that their sons have been working to always give their personal best. I would like to thank you, Shane, for your hard work and dedication to the wellbeing of these students.

I would also like to congratulate our Year 12 students on their resilience and positive approach to the challenges they have faced this year. I encourage all our Year 12 students to keep working hard and stay on track in preparation for the HSC exams. The entire school community is very proud of their achievements so far this year.

### YEARLY EXAMS

It is that time of the year when students will soon be sitting for their final round of exams. This can also be a stressful and anxious time for some of our students. REACH OUT have just recently uploaded online some new resources on developing coping skills for stress which parents and students can access. The Department of Education also offers advice to parents and students on how to deal with the stresses that come from sitting exams and studying. Further resources can also be found on Andrew Fuller's website outlining useful tips on preparing for tests. Andrew is a clinical psychologist who works with many schools and specialises in the wellbeing of young people and their families.

The dates for yearly exams: Year 11: Term 3 - Week 8-9

Years 7-10: Term 4 - Weeks 3-6

### WEBLINKS

<https://au.reachout.com/articles/9-tips-for-coping-with-the-hard-stuff#a>

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/learning/help-with-homework/how-to-help-your-child-with-homework-at-high-school#Video6>

<http://andrewfuller.com.au/free-resources/>

### DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Due to the rapidly changing nature of online technologies and increased influence social media is having in the lives of our young people, teaching and nurturing digital citizenship is vital. We implement several programs here at Tech and consistently remind students of their rights and responsibilities online. Last month, Year 7 heard from Senior Constable, Kelly Stewart (NSW Police Youth Liaison Officer) who spoke to the year group on the topic of cyber safety and how to deal with incidents of cyber-bullying which was also covered in a similar session during their Wellbeing Assembly. High Resolves is another program we run for our Year 8 students, which includes a series of hands-on workshops that also aim to educate our young men to become responsible global citizens, particularly when using technology. Think U Know also offers some great resources which we often tap into here at Tech via our Peer Support workshops and Parent Partnership program which also has a particular focus on the safe use of technology.

Whilst students at this age are highly active online and forming distinct internet identities, they are still developing an understanding of what impact

their behaviours can have on themselves and their friends. For this reason equipping our young people with responsible digital citizenship skills ie how to use technology safely and responsibly, and how to evaluate, manage and use the information and tools they find is an ongoing mission that requires schools and families to work together to ensure that we teach students to observe the same social rules and values that we expect in the offline world: obey the law, have respect for others, act civilly, sensibly and kindly.

Parents can also visit the following websites for further ideas on how to safely guide your child's online experiences and reduce incidents of bullying. <https://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au/resources/cyberbullying-and-digital-citizenship-lesson-plans-for-secondary-classes>  
<https://antibullying.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/Keeping-my-child-safe-online>  
<http://bullyingnoway.gov.a>  
<http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/parents-portal>.

## WELLBEING ASSEMBLIES TERM 3

Wellbeing Assemblies have continued to play an important part in the development of effective wellbeing and engagement strategies for all of the students at Tech despite some of the challenges and disruptions to our program as a result of Covid-19.

Year 7: With Peer Support now officially over for Year 7, their new program of wellbeing assemblies has already seen them take part in lessons aimed at improving their organisation and planning. They have also participated in wellbeing lessons and talks on topics of cyberbullying and overcoming adversity.

Year 8 were given the opportunity to become involved in the 'Videos for Change' Competition as part of their involvement in the school's High Resolves program. Students had an opportunity to create a short video on social issues that they care about or want to educate people about. Year 8 have also been given important information about the exciting range of electives available in Years 9 and 10 as well as practical tips towards choosing subjects that they want, based primarily on their own interest areas and strengths.

Year 9 Wellbeing assemblies this term focussed on Grit and Mental Fitness. During these assembly workshops students utilised the online resources from the Unleashing Personal Potential and Black Dog Institute resources.

Year 10 were fortunate to have two external presenters at their assemblies this term; 'Goal Setting and Action Planning' by Howard Smith and Brainstorm productions 'Cheap Thrills' which educates our boys about the consequences of risk-taking behaviour and how best to seek help in difficult situations.

Year 11 heard from guest presenter Tom Reynolds, from the Independent Drug Education of Australia, speak about the risks and laws associated with alcohol and illicit drug usage in Australia. Students also learnt valuable first aid skills as part of the presentation. In a separate incursion, Year 11 also heard from Prue Salter who presented on the topic of study skills. Prue's session focused mainly on helping students identify changes and improvements they could make to their approach to their studies in order to maximise their results in the final years of school. Additional areas covered in Prue's presentation included, senior mindset, setting up an effective home study environment, managing resources for school (both paper and digital), working effectively at home and dealing with distractions, managing workload and planning for assessments, using the diary as a planning tool, making brain-friendly study notes and using a wide variety of active study techniques to suit individual learning styles.

The most recent assembly for Year 12 provided them with important information should they be considering applying for the Educational Access Scheme (EAS). The scheme is operated by UAC and is designed to provide special consideration to university aspirants who can demonstrate that they have experienced long-term educational disadvantage (financial, medical, personal etc) for a period of six months or more. All students considering an application and who seek endorsement from a recognised school staff member must ensure that all the relevant paperwork is finalised and provided to staff no later than Friday 11 September to allow enough time to write and return Educational Impact Statements (EIS) to students so they can scan and upload documentation when making an application online. A copy of the presentation and all accompanying EAS literature can be found at Moodle B - > Wellbeing - > Educational Access Scheme or visit the EAS website.

**Nick Stokes**  
**Head Teacher Wellbeing**

## P&C REPORT



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

The next ZOOM Meeting is on  
1 September 2020 at 7pm

All Parents Welcome to join the Meeting.

### AUGUST ZOOM P&C MEETING

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

In the coming P&C Meetings, we are hoping to get special guests from the school to present to the parents the happenings in their faculty.

In previous years, these special guests often give us a good insight into their faculty and where advances are being made as well as provide an understanding as to what our kids are learning and opportunities available to them within their faculty.

We'll kick this off in September with Genya Sugowdz (Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning) as our guest speaker.

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

There will be no meeting in October as the first Tuesday in October falls in the next school holidays.

### ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

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

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

### CONTACTING THE P&C

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

**Warren Mak**  
P&C President

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

# 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, 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.**

During the school terms, the Second Hand Uniform Shop is open on the Second Tuesday of each calendar month, from 10:30am till noon. **Uniform shop will next be open on Tuesday 8 September.** 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.

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.

### **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 the both the senior and junior toilets together with a major upgrade to the boys' 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**



competed against fierce competitors from all across Australia and all participants put in solid efforts with innovative products.

Ultimately, the Year 10 group, 'Watemelon' consisting of Aryan Chauhan, Neil Dadhich, Lalit Sahni, Shintaro Seino and Tyrone Lee managed to fight their way to the top five and proceeded to come second in all of Australia! Their winning idea was an easy-to-use mobile application designed to tackle

## Australian innovators challenge

Sydney Tech is very proud of the success of their Year 10 'Watemelon' team who came second in the National Competition for the "Australian Innovators Challenge". The Australian Innovators Challenge is an online competition run each year by The University of Technology and Generation Entrepreneur in partnership with Finder, Australia's leading personal finance company. It is designed to challenge high school students from across Australia to solve real world problems. This year students were challenged to solve issues related to personal finance.

Over the course of the competition, which lasted for two weeks, participants had to create a product related to personal finance and had the opportunity to learn from team and industry leaders about what it takes to build a business. Students formed groups of 2-5 participants and were paired with buddies and mentors from Finder to help create a viable business idea. This was then followed up by a final business pitch over ZOOM to a panel of experts including the CEO of Finder. Several groups from Sydney Tech

the troublesome habit of impulse buying amongst young people between the ages of 19-29. The product designed by 'Watemelon' to help stop impulse buying contained the following features which were highly commended by the judging panel.

- A Geolocation feature which automatically reminds users of their remaining credit when they are detected approaching a recognised store.
- Gamification was a critical driver of the app which saw the planting of virtual 'seeds' as rewards for users who maintained good spending habits. These seeds could be planted in the user's virtual garden to showcase their achievements and were represented as visually growing into 'savings trees.'
- Environmental responsibility and awareness as 'Watemelon' actively engaged in ongoing conversations with the organisation 'Trees for Life' to ensure that for every seven virtual trees planted in the app, an actual tree could be planted in real life.

Well done to all who participated, and keep an eye out for the competition next year!

**Shintaro Seino**



# Studies of Religion in the Time of COVID 19

This year in Preliminary Studies of Religion we have been unable to do our regular excursions to visit a Church and a Mosque to support our studies about the history of Christianity and Islam so we have improvised with special guests and activities at school.

This year we have enjoyed listening to Mr Martin Riley discuss the trinity in our studies of Christianity and we enjoyed an outdoor presentation on the role of prayer in Islam that was delivered by members of the Sydney Technical Islamic Boys Association (STIBA). Rayyan Hossain and Niaz Ahmad (Year 11), and Humzah Ghaffar (Year 10) answered our questions and were very helpful.

We've enjoyed very lively conversations and had a great time learning about the history of religion.

**Michael Ahmad and Sai Pedhagandham**  
**Year 11**

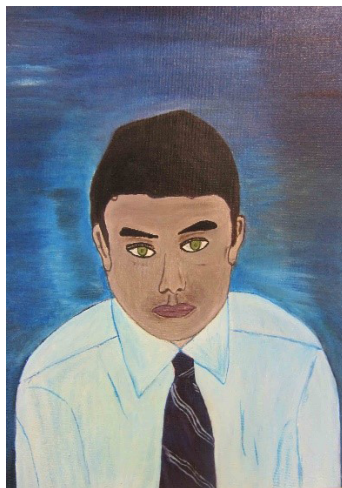
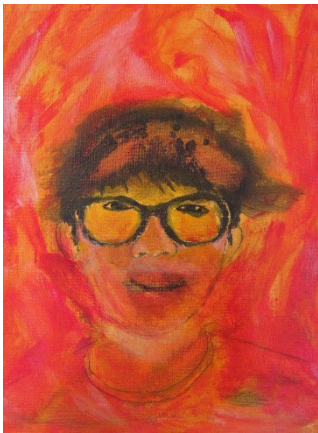
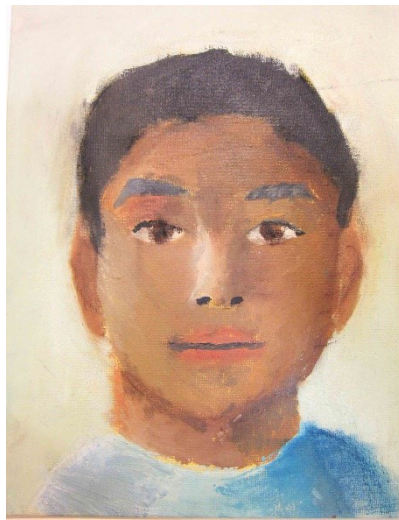
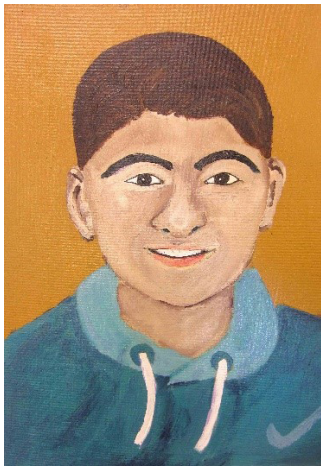


# visual art block news

## year 7 and 8 visual arts

This week in the visual arts foyer we are putting together a Year 7 and 8 exhibition of paintings from Term 2. During our remote learning period, Ms Nelsons Year 8 and Year 7 Visual Arts classes were asked to complete their self-portraits and landscapes at home. With the help of Mrs Cheryl Feigen in the office who secured a mountain load of jars for a paint delivery, the students were able to achieve some amazing results.

**Dorne Nelson**  
Visual Arts Faculty



# year 10 still life photography day

Visual Arts students clearly missed classroom collaboration and social interaction during Covid lockdown.

In early August, Year 10 Visual Arts participated in the annual Still Life Studio photography Day. Over 30 students worked with natural and studio lighting to create references for their major paintings.

Traditionally a still life is; a work of art depicting inanimate subject matter including; objects such food, flowers, plants, shells and man-made drinking glasses, books and vases. Some students pushed the boundaries bringing in sporting objects, travel ephemera and adhering to Ms Blake's delectable studio reference - lollies and chocolate.

It was a creative day full of buzzing energy in the Arts block and all students used gloves and sanitizer.

# year 11 visual arts

Congratulations to the Year 11 students, Dennis Lai and Ryan Suhardjo who have been successful in their applications for the prestigious National Art School HSC Intensive Practice for 2020. See below some of their Architectural postcards produced during Covid Lockdown. All works are pencil and ink on paper

**Annette Falconer**  
Visual Arts Faculty



Year 10 Still Life



Dennis Lai



Ryan Suhardjo



# LIBRARY REPORT

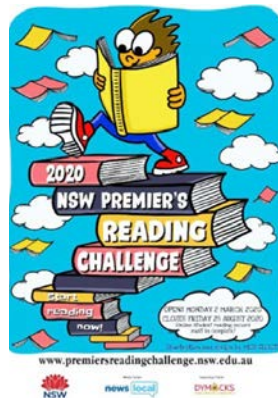
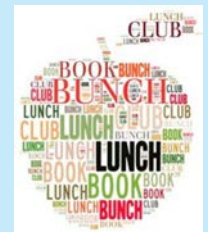


## GREETINGS FROM THE CHARLES KINGSFORD SMITH LIBRARY

Elizabeth Greaves  
Relieving Teacher/  
Librarian

## LUNCH BUNCH BOOK CLUB

Term 3's book club choice is John Green's *Looking For Alaska*. The library has plenty of copies in stock so that boys have time to read before the student-run club meets at lunch in the seminar room of the library on **Monday 14 September**.



## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The PRC is not a competition against others but a challenge to the student to try to read a certain number of books within a year. The books are from a list of challenging and age-appropriate books but students get to choose some of their own. The challenge encourages students to read widely. Students will have until the end of August to complete reading logs and to hit submit. I will then be able to see their logs and sign off on them.



## INTRA-SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT

The library is hosting the annual search for Tech's Chess Champion. The comp is held in the library every Tuesday at lunch. Thank you to Sumen Ahmed for agreeing to organise the weekly draw. We will find out the winner at the end of the term.





New furniture has arrived for games and collaborative space for the boys.

As the social hub of the school, it's important to give our gifted students a space to relax from their heavy curriculum load and a space to form friendships through games and discussion.

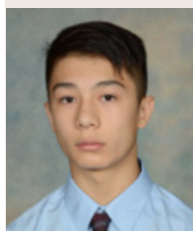
# NEW!



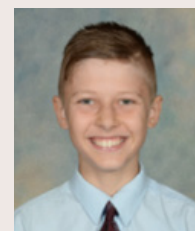
Working along with our READ program, we have a display of engaging books with indigenous voices as characters or narrators. The *Yield* by Tara June Winch is the recent winner of the Miles Franklin Award. Bruce Pascoe's *Young Dark Emu* is also a notable book for Children's Book Week and re-examines colonial accounts of Aboriginal people in Australia and cites evidence of pre-colonial agriculture, engineering and building construction by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. *Catching Teller Crow* is told in two voices, weaving together colonial history and is part detective story and party gripping ghost story. READ, along with English's wide reading program, both encourage students to read in a variety of genres, types of novels. Our goal in the library is to provide a ladder for reading from primary books to fascinating series to sophisticated works of literature. Keep reading, Techies!



## LEGACY JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD



This year, Tech has two students representing us in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Awards, a national competition that asks students to speak for five minutes on something of which they care. Due to Covid-19, the competition will be run differently this year, with students submitting speeches online to be judged by a panel. Students who make it through to the next round, may have to take part in a zoom competition before making their way to the



State then National Final. Our 2020 representatives are Year 8 students, Brendan Logarta and Thomas Zlatar. Congratulations, boys on your selection and good luck!



## AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE

Beginning in 2019, the library began to invite authors to spend a morning or afternoon in our library. We held workshops for interested students on How to Write and Illustrate Manga, a type of Japanese graphic novel which is very popular with our students. Later in the year, we ran a creative writing workshop with a slam poet, who is the author of poetry books., in which students learned to find their authentic writing voice by taking what they care about and rapping it through slam poetry.

In 2020, we have had to cancel several planned author events due to Covid-19, but at this point, we hope to welcome Climate Scientist Chris Turney who will talk about what it means to be a scientist who studies climate change and how scientists use carbon dating to find out how old things are and how the climate has affected them. Turney is a fascinating speaker who has written many books on his research in Antarctica so we look forward to welcoming him here to Sydney Tech library this year.





# write a book in a day

Proudly supporting



Two teams of eight Year 10 students participated in this program on Thursday 27 August from 8:00am to 5:00pm to write a 4000 word story with an illustrated front and back cover and artwork throughout. This project helps to raise funds for the Kids' Cancer Project. Completed books are donated to children's hospitals around Australia to provide entertainment and to let them know that people are wishing them the best.

Our Year 10 students will have to use creativity, collaboration, time management and leadership skills to get the job done in time and to create a product of which they can be proud. Our entries will also be judged in a contest against thousands

of other schools in the country. The difficult part of the project is that students must use certain parameters, which they receive on the day, including a type of character such as an acrobat or astronaut, an animal that must be part of the story and a list of words that need to be included. The story must also have something to do with Australia. It was a challenging day for our gifted and talented students to use all of these essential skills. Good luck to our teams!



**Team A:**  
Timothy Benjamin,  
Attila Cimen, YiRu Jang,  
Peter Kathestides,  
Safaiet Khan, Felix Lin,  
Ali Mourad, Dylan Soo  
and Victor Wynn  
wrote and illustrated  
the story "The Lost  
Arachnid".



**Team B:**  
Adithya Agilan,  
Arnav Badrish, Jay Bae,  
Nicholas Chatterton,  
Matthew Lois,  
Haresh Palanirajah,  
Kevin Pham and  
Terry Rakis geared up  
for Write a Book in a  
Day

# 10 Psychological Tips for Coping with Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Humans are susceptible to many different infectious diseases, including coronavirus (COVID-19). Worrying about diseases is a normal reaction. But, excessive worrying about infectious diseases can affect both our physical and our mental health.

This document describes practical psychological skills to help you and your loved ones cope with anxiety and worry about infectious diseases.

## 1. Get informed with the right information

We are 'hard-wired' to react to possible threats to ourselves, our families and our communities. These reactions can keep us safe from possible threats. But at times, our reactions may also be excessive and unhelpful, and may cause significant stress and worry. Relying on news from mainstream media or social media, which may sensationalise or exaggerate issues, can further increase our stress and anxiety.

One way to manage our reactions is to access the 'right information', that is, information we can trust. Consider only accessing trusted sources of information (e.g. ABC Radio, Australian Government Department of Health website, World Health Organisation website, etc).

## 2. Understand history

Events like infectious diseases often follow a predictable course. In the past 50 years there have been multiple national and international episodes of concern around conditions such as tuberculosis, SARS, Ebola, HIV, hepatitis, measles, to name a few. Initially, there is often scepticism, followed by attention, followed by panic, followed by reality, followed by a return to normality. Stock markets and supermarket shelves are good indicators of where we are in the course. Reminding yourself of these patterns can help you to understand the course and plan for the future.

## 3. Get organised

A good antidote to stress and worry is to get active and organised. If you are worried about something, then do something. Make plans and write your list of what you need to buy, organise, or set-up, and get on with doing it. Tack off each item and turn your 'To Do' list into a 'Ta-Da' list. Whenever you recognise you are getting stressed, ask yourself, 'What do I need to do to help manage this situation?' Remember that family or friends are also likely to be stressed and might need help getting organised. Talk with them about your plans, and if possible, help them to get organised.

## 4. Balance your thoughts

When we get stressed about our health or risks of infection our thoughts can become dark, brooding, and pessimistic. Thoughts like, "How will I cope if I get sick?", "I can't deal with this", are often triggered by stress, but they don't help us. Negative and dark brooding thoughts will stop you doing things that can help. Remember, our thoughts are not always true or helpful. Challenge your negative thoughts by asking yourself what a friend would say in the same situation, or ask yourself what evidence do you have that you 'won't cope or can't cope'? Whenever you recognise a negative thought balance it with a realistic thought.

## 5. Shut down the noise

Stress is infectious, and often unhelpful. People tend to talk about things they are worried about; this creates lots of 'noise', which can create even more stress. Give yourself permission to switch off 'noise' such as social media, news, or even radio for most of each day. Also give yourself permission to excuse yourself from people who are creating stress. Keep checking in to reliable news sources once or twice a day, but otherwise, turn down the 'noise'. Instead, replace it with things that can help you, including doing things you enjoy, listening to music, entertainment, games, or even meditation.





NSW Police Force

With your help, a safer community.

# DRIVING OFFENCES IN SCHOOL ZONES

## Disobey 'No Parking' Sign



- ONLY stop to drop off or pick up
- Stay within 3 meters of your car
- Stay less than 2 minutes

Fine = **\$191** & Lose 2 Points

'KISS & DROP' ZONE

Section 168 Road Rules 2014



Fine = **\$344** & Lose 3 Points

Child or Passenger Not Restrained (Not wearing a seat belt or not in a child seat)

Sections 265, 266, 267 Road Rules 2014

Fine = **\$457** & Lose 5 Points

Driver Uses Mobile Phone When Not Allowed by Law  
**DO NOT** talk, text or view your phone while

Section 300 Road Rules 2014



Fine = **\$344** & Lose 2 Points

**DO NOT STOP** for ANY reason

Section 167 Road Rules 2014

For more information see: **Road Rules 2014**

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/road-rules/index.html>

\*Fines are current as of May 2020. Fine amounts change regularly.

For up-to-date fine amounts see: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/demerits-offences/index.html>





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Stay less than **2 minutes**



Section 168 Road Rules 2014

## Disobey 'No Stopping' Sign



Fine = **\$344\***  
& Lose 2 Points

DO NOT STOP for ANY reason



Section 167 Road Rules 2014

## Child or Passenger Not Restrained

Fine = **\$344\***  
& Lose 3 Points



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## Driver Uses Mobile Phone When Not Allowed by Law

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Section 300 Road Rules 2014

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For more information see: **Road Rules 2014** <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/road-rules/index.html>

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# 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.

