

St George Girls High School

Telephone: 9587 5902 Facsimile: 9553 8043
Email: stgeorgegi-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.sgghs.com.au



Monthly Bulletin

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**Parents & Citizens'
Association Meeting**
Thursday 27 August
Annual General Meeting
Staff Common Room
7pm

Mothers' Committee Meeting
Wednesday 2 September
Library
10am

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

A very warm welcome back to Term 3 to all our parents/carers and students, I hope you had a great winter break and are ready for another exciting and productive school semester ahead. My hope is that Term 3 remains uninterrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic still prevalent in the community and that there is no need for NSW schools to return to a period of remote learning. I am confident that if everyone in the community continues to do the right thing this this will not eventuate. Our thoughts are with our fellow Australians in Victoria and I know that we will continue to monitor the situation closely and adhere to the advice as it is received.

I emailed to all parents/carers in Week 2 "**Updated advice for families in relation to school operations for Term 3**" that outlined valuable health and Department of Education (DoE) advice and information for the term ahead. Some of the key messages in this communication reinforced that schools continue to be safe places for our staff and students and all school operations are in line with the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health advice.

Our school will continue to be vigilant in implementing infection control procedures, physical distancing and personal hygiene protocols to protect the health and safety of students and staff. It is important that our students continue to adhere to the following effective hygiene practices:

- regularly washing hands
- avoiding sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately
- bringing pre-filled water bottles from home

The activities that are permitted at school will be conducted in a way that is safe and appropriate in the current environment and in line with advice has been provided to the school in relation to all of these activities. The COVID-19 restrictions still in place will require the school to re-think many of the planned events and activities for Term 3. As the school makes important decisions about each of the events, I will ensure that timely communication is provided to the community. Once again, I thank you all for your support as we navigate through another school term together.

Latest COVID-19 Case Locations in NSW

It is strongly advised that parents/carers regularly monitor the current NSW Government COVID-19 news and updates on hotspot areas and public health orders. This site is updated regularly and provides relevant health advice for community members who may have been at any of the locations at the specified dates and times. As we have students attending our school from a wide range of suburbs in Sydney, it is imperative that parents/carers remain up to date with this information and follow the recommended actions if anyone has been in a location where there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19. The link to the site is listed below.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw>

The Department of Education (DoE) has a very detailed COVID-19 response plan to action should a student or staff member at our school contract the virus. It is very important that when a student or staff member has taken the COVID-19 test, they self-isolate at home and do not return to school until the test result has been provided by NSW Health. If your child or an immediate member of the family contracts the virus and tests positive, I ask that you contact the school via telephone during school hours or via the school email at any time.

Staff Update

Our Deputy Principal (Curriculum) Mr Mark Treacy will remain on extended leave for Term 3. Mrs Amber Housego will continue in the role of Relieving Deputy Principal (Curriculum) and Mr Chris Georgiou will continue to relieve Head Teacher Administration for the term. I am very grateful to have such skilled members of the SGGHS team who can take on leadership roles in the school, ensuring that the complex daily operations of the school continue without interruption.

I would like to wish Ms Farlie Gardner all the very best as she commences her maternity leave. I am grateful for her commitment to our school and to her Year 12 class in particular (that had her continue to teach while 39 weeks pregnant!!). I would like to formally welcome Mr Yoni Charulpski to SGGHS who will be replacing Ms Gardner for the duration of her leave. Mr Charulpski will also take on the Sport Organiser role for our school and I thank him for the work he will do to manage this important weekly activity for our students.

Good Luck Year 12 Students

There is no doubt that 2020 has been a very unpredictable and disrupted year for the Class of 2020. I have been so proud of the resilience on display from the students as they skilfully adapted to whatever was thrown their way. Their HSC journey has been very different as the Year 12 students had to transition to a period of remote learning and then back to face-to-face learning again, all while working through important HSC content. I know that this uncertainty has created additional pressure and stress for our HSC students to manage and I can only hope that Term 3 remains uninterrupted to allow our Year 12 students to successfully complete their HSC studies.

I wish the Class of 2020 all the very best of luck as they now complete their Trial HSC Examinations which commenced on Friday 31 July. Following the Trial HSC examinations, a number of planned activities would usually take place at school as part of the "Festival of Year 12" that the students and staff look forward to. With the current COVID-19 restrictions in place, many of these planned activities will need to be reconsidered and I know that the school will do its very best to accommodate as many of these events as possible to ensure that the students have the opportunity to appropriately and safely celebrate the conclusion of their formal years of schooling at SGGHS.

I also wanted to acknowledge how vital the post-trial period is for our Year 12 students. It is during this time where valuable feedback, revision and refinement of all subject content is consolidated. Attendance at school during this period is mandatory and there is a very positive correlation between regular school attendance during the post-trial period and a maximised HSC result. I would like to wish all our Year 12 students all the very best of luck during this significant and final school term.

Subject Selection Information Meetings and Parent/Student Evenings

Term 3 is also the term where students make significant subject selection decisions for 2021. Over the next few weeks the school will host important **subject selection and information sessions for the students**. This is a very important time for students as they are about to make some very important curriculum choices. At this stage, I only recommend that students reflect on their strengths, abilities and subject interests and make informed choices based around these considerations.

It is important that students make the right choices initially, as these choices determine the nature and number of classes that will operate within the 2021 timetable. As always, there will be limited opportunities for students to change courses, reinforcing the importance of getting their selections right from the outset.

These events will look different in 2020 as we need to comply with the DoE advice in relation to hosting events at school and information will be provided to students in Years 10 and 8 as soon a clear plan is developed about how the subject section process will be managed this year.

Mothers' Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This month's Mothers' Committee Meeting was dedicated to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and I am so pleased to report that all executive positions for the new term have been filled. Firstly, I would like to extend a very big thank you to the following outgoing executive members for 2019/2020, who have done a wonderful job;

President: Edwina Murphy

Vice-President: Cathy Anderson

Secretary: Hui-Chuen Hoh

Secretary: Kim Le

Treasurer: Carol Chew

Our President Edwina Murphy has stepped down from the role of President this year and I just wanted to say a specific thank you to Mrs Edwina Murphy and wanted to acknowledge the tremendous contribution she has made in the role over a number of years now. I know that I will miss working with her in this capacity and her unwavering support towards the school and the committee has been very much appreciated.

It is now a great pleasure to welcome into office the newly elected executive team for 2010/2021;

President: Kim Le

Vice-President (Uniform Shop): Cathy Anderson

Vice-President (Gazette and Publicity): Nadisa Milo

Secretary: Hui-Chuen Hoh

Treasurer: Rokeya Akhand

I look forward to working collaboratively with the 2010/21 Executive team and I know that the students and the school will continue to benefit from this valuable parent partnership.

Open Day 2020 Cancelled

The scheduled Open Day that was to take place on Thursday 4 September will unfortunately be cancelled this year as the DoE has made it clear that school-based activities that involve large gathering of adults are not permitted at this time. Open Day usually attracts in excess of 200 visitors to the school site and the school needed to decide what to do in relation to this event, as it is a very complex activity that requires significant organisation and planning. I know the community will be disappointed about this decision, in particular our perspective families, however I know that everyone will understand why this decision was necessary. The school will look to schedule some smaller group tours in Term 4 if we are permitted to do so.

Higher Ability Selection Test (HAST)

On Saturday 8 August, 195 prospective students for Years 8-11 sat the Higher Ability Selection Test (HAST) at St George Girls High School. This test is developed by Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER) and assesses reading, written expression, mathematical and abstract reasoning. The HAST will again serve a very important role in supporting the selection committee manage the process of selecting any prospective students for 2021 in Years 8-11.

It is always encouraging to have receive an increased number of families express interest in applying for the limited positions at St George Girls for 2021, that serves as a further testament to great work we do serving our high potential learners. I now look forward to receiving the results from the test and working through the selection process, which will include an interview for prospective students over the coming weeks.

Year 10 Work Experience

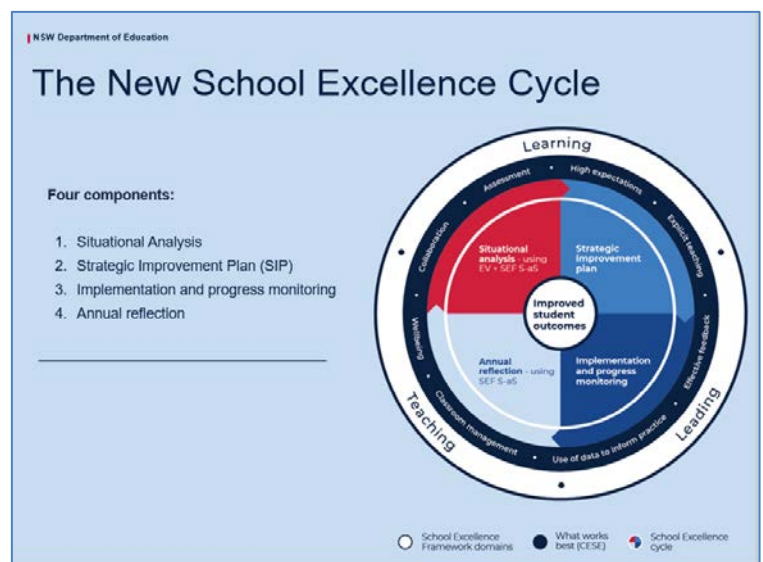
Upon schools returning to face-to-face learning from Monday 25 May, schools were directed to continue with NESA approved curriculum with the exception of some activities which were not able to resume at that time. The DoE has since updated the guidelines provided to schools in Term 3 and despite advice that suggests that students in NSW schools are now permitted to engage in Work Experience, we have made the decision that the Year 10 2020 cohort at SGGHS will complete a Virtual Work Experience Program in August during their timetabled Career Education Lessons. All students will receive a booklet and a certificate of completion to acknowledge their participation in the virtual Work Experience Program.

The decision was made with careful consideration, given the vulnerability of the current labour market, in particular the financial and organisational pressure on employers during this health pandemic and economic downturn. With COVID-19 still prevalent in the community, the school also wanted to minimise the contact our students have outside of the school gates and the health and wellbeing of the students has been prioritised. I would like to thank Mrs Jodie Jospe and Mrs Danielle Galea for their work behind the scenes making the arrangements needed to ensure that the virtual Work Experience program is available for our Year 10 students.

School Excellence in Action: The 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP)

We are currently in the final year of the 2018-2020 school planning cycle, which is very exciting time as we reflect on what we have achieved over the last 3 years and begin the important consultation and situational analysis process to inform the next stage of the school's development and growth.

The DoE has just released to NSW schools information about the next school planning cycle and I wanted to share some introductory information about the next 4 year planning cycle with the community.



Why does our school need a Strategic Improvement Plan?

It is a requirement that all NSW government schools develop and publish a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP).

A Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) is a working document that details the steps our school will take to improve learning outcomes and the achievement and growth of all students. To ensure continuous improvement, the Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) reflects where our school is at and how it will further improve learning, teaching and leading.

Policy and Context

Schools engage in all aspects of the School Excellence cycle (pictured above). This includes developing a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) in consultation with their community. The SIP has up to 3 strategic directions and associated improvement measures which form the basis of each planning cycle. One of these strategic directions will be 'Student Growth and Attainment' for all schools. The remaining strategic directions are chosen by each school to reflect and respond to their unique context.

Improvement measures should include system-negotiated targets for student growth and attainment and references to effective classroom practices. The Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) is approved by the Director, Educational Leadership and published on the school's website by the end of Term 2 2021.

The SIP should:

- be based on our school's situational analysis and the School Excellence Framework
- recognise the importance of a sharp, deep focus on strategic areas to address improvement in order to meet system-negotiated and school-determined targets
- be improvement focused with a clear vision for student achievement
- reflect a consultative process including all stakeholders
- be based on authentic school practice and reflections on practice
- be focused on collection, analysis, reflection and evaluation of evidence
- be based on improvement measures aligned to our school's current state.

I look forward to leading our school through the next school planning cycle and I know that we will over the coming months commence a very thorough situational analysis and consultation process, that will ensure that we together develop a comprehensive plan that will ensure that we continue to improve the teaching and learning outcomes of our students, ensuring that we continue to grow, thrive and succeed as a learning community.

School Uniform Review Update

I am pleased to report that the school has finally had the opportunity to convey the parent and student uniform survey feedback to the Uniform Shop manager and their suppliers at the end of last term. I have now had two meetings with the school uniform shop supplier and their design team to start to put together a few proposed school uniform designs that address the comprehensive feedback we received from the parents and students.

At our first meeting at the end of last Term, Year 12 student Mercoria Farhoud presented the compiled uniform survey findings. She did a fabulous job outlining the key areas that need to be addressed in the re-design process and I thank her for the effort she invested into turning the detailed survey findings into a concise overview to be presented at the meeting.

Last week, Ms Abson and I were presented with some of the preliminary designs and samples for consideration. At this stage, we have provided some feedback on the preliminary designs we were presented. I am excited to see what the final designs will now look like once this feedback has been actioned. It is certainly timely that we look at refreshing the SGGHS school uniform and I am confident that the key survey findings have been addressed by the designers.

I am hoping that once we are happy with the revised designs we can work with the Uniform Shop to start the transition to the new uniform for Years 7 and 10 in 2022. It will of course be a phased approach and while many of the elements that we all really like about the SGGHS uniform will remain, the key areas identified through the survey feedback such as wearability, distinction between winter and summer uniforms, fit, branding, affordability, comfort, design and appropriate options and uniform choices for the students have certainly been resolved.

Kiss and Ride Zones Now Operational

I am pleased to report that the proposal to convert the signage on both sides of Palmerston Street to 'Kiss and Ride Area' drop off zones has been approved by the Georges River Council.

The new signage has been installed in accordance with the image above. This should now create additional parking spaces available for parents/carers to safely pull into the kerb to pick and drop off their daughters. Unfortunately, I do anticipate that we will continue to experience limited parking availability around the school due to the increased development in local streets which is expected to continue over the next few years. However, the change in the signage is a welcome step forward from the local council and I am grateful that this has been actioned



Student Achievements

I am always proud to share our student achievements with the community in my Gazette correspondence and I always welcome feedback from parents and the community to ensure that I am made aware of any special activities or achievements that our students are represented in. This month I have been informed of the following student achievement that I wanted to share.

- Congratulations to Suenna Jeong in Year 9 who was awarded a Certificate of Participation for her submission into the 2020 Harmony Day Poster Competition. Suenna is a very talented artist and it is wonderful to have her creativity recognised.

Congratulations

I would like to congratulate the following student for achieving a Gold Certificate indicating that she has received thirty Merit and/or Participation Certificates:

Houda Hamadi and Afrina Tanisha of Year 9.

Moncia Zhou of Year 10.

Tammy Lee of Year 11.

I would also like to congratulate the following students for receiving Principal Certificates:

Dana Arenas Valentin, Ada Fu, Aurelia Gunawan, Agustin Hardjawana, Tanuri Jayatilaka, Tessa Jolly (2), Alina Joseph, Hailey Lo, Candice Lu, Abeeha Siddiqui, Azkiya Umam and Gigi Wu of Year 8.

Corynne De Vocht, Houda Hamadi, Caitlin Matthews, Marie Sikiotis (2) and Daanya Sudesh of Year 9.

Katherine Elliott, Mia Feghali (2), Eleni Markantonakis (2), Mary Murray and Jessie Wang of Year 10.

Meera Thayaparan and Angelina Xie of Year 11.

Sammi Lee (3) and Muhsana Sattar of Year 12.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the events mentioned in this correspondence with you any time. I wish all our families good health and a great term ahead. Thank you for your ongoing support and I will continue to be in touch with our parents/carers over the coming weeks.

Ms Betty Romeo
Principal

Deputy Principal's Report – Teaching and Learning

Professional learning opportunities have certainly changed over the past few months due to COVID-19 restrictions, and gradually we are seeing more and more online learning opportunities become available for staff. Since the last Gazette, staff at SGGHS have engaged in a variety of professional learning linked to the curriculum, strategic directions, mandatory training and DoE policy implementation.

The Term 3 School Development Day provided an opportunity for staff to revisit the structures in place to support our students in their literacy development and overall learning needs. Staff were presented an overview of the 2019 NAPLAN data and the key focus areas as part of the current milestones, information linked to the Year 7 Best Start Program and Year 10 Minimum Standards testing and also a thorough outline of the role of our Learning and Support team, including our teacher mentors who provide in-depth support to students across all cohorts. Staff also completed the annual Corruption Prevention mandatory training module and worked on Teacher Accreditation information and development. The School Administration and Support Staff along with the Senior Executive completed separate training in Working Smart with Microsoft Outlook.



In preparation for the implementation of the **High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) Policy** in 2021, Ms Romeo and I attended a two day online learning course for school leaders. The course looks at the key principles of the HPGE Policy, the research and how to strategically plan for its implementation.

SGGHS staff also completed the 'HPGE Attitudes and Teaching Practices' survey which will provide valuable information to assist in determining future steps the school will need to take to begin the familiarisation and implementation process of this policy.

Further professional learning completed from the end of Term 2 until now include:

- School Excellence in Action
- Strategic Improvement Plan Workshop
- HSC Disability Provisions Workshop
- Selective High Schools Head Teacher Science Network Meeting
- Syllabus Programming: English, PDHPE, Physics

Parenting Ideas – 'Insight' Articles

The first insight article is **Developing Young People's Emotional Smarts**. The coronavirus period has been an emotional roller coaster for many young people. However it provides a wonderful background for parents to enhance the emotional learning of young people.

The second insight article is **6 Nightmare Habits that are Ruining Teenagers' Sleep**. Researchers agree that the sleep deprivation many young people are experiencing can be overcome by eradicating some of their current lifestyle habits.

Upcoming Parent Webinar: Teaching Young People About Healthy Relationships

When: Wednesday 9 September 2020, 8.00pm – 9.00pm

Presenter: Collett Smart

Webinar Overview: In a world where young people are bombarded by adult themes, sexualised and destructive media messages, it can be hard for parents to feel confident to take on delicate topics with their child. In this webinar Collett Smart gives parents the tools to build a strong relationship with their child where no topic is off-limits and they can come to them with any questions.

Key learning and discussion points include:

- The foundations of healthy relationships and relationship intelligence
- How to help a child develop flourishing relationships at each age and stage of their development
- Appropriate age guidelines for talking about body safety, sex and sexualised media
- How to respond when a child comes across pornography
- Conversation ideas on consent and respectful relationships

Once available a PDF for details on how to redeem the free webinar voucher will be emailed to parents/carers the week prior to the webinar.

Study Skills Tip for August

Making the Most of Your Learning

This month's study skills tip by Dr Prue Salter is **Making the Most of Your Learning**. Learning is not just what you do in the classroom. Study is not just what you do the night before a test. Both of these are ongoing activities that are enhanced by the correct pre and post activities. See which of these 5 Ps you do.

Ms Pamela Abson

Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning

Relieving Deputy Principal's Report – Curriculum

Year 12 Trial Examinations

The Trial examinations commenced on Friday 31 July and are now well under way. This has been a very challenging and changeable year for all of our students but especially for Year 12. However, they have continued to present calm, well-prepared and ready to do their best and these exams have been no different. Further to that, the students have been wonderful in adhering and adapting to the additional hygiene and safety precautions that have had to be put in place for this exam block. We wish them all the best for these exams and once completed please encourage your daughters to thoroughly explore the feedback provided from teachers. The feedback that is received at the conclusion of the Trials is most pivotal and beneficial for success in the HSC exams. It will provide the students key areas to refine and help to develop targeted revision strategies to work on during their HSC preparation.

Subject Selection

Term 3 is the time we begin talking to the students and parents about exploring curriculum patterns for the year ahead and the processes involved for subject selection. This year, due to the current Department of Education (DoE) restrictions in place, things will look a little different than they normally do.

Year 7 have already begun receiving information about the elective options available for Year 8, 2021. The students received their selection form on Wednesday 5 August and will make their online selections at school on 13 August. This will determine the mandatory language they will study in 2021 and the choice of two electives that will give students the opportunity to further develop their knowledge and skills in a variety of subject offerings.

Traditionally, in Term 3 we would hold a Year 8 into 9 Subject selection information evening and a Year 10 into 11 Subject Information evening. These evenings kick off the process for parents and students where they begin to formulate an understanding of what are the formal curriculum requirements as well as what other subject options are available.

On Monday 17 August, there will be a Year meeting with both the Principal and Deputy Principal-Curriculum where students from Year 8 and 10 will be receiving key curriculum information about patterns of study in Stage 5 and Stage 6. At the conclusion of this meeting, students will also have the opportunity to discuss potential courses on offer at the school next year with the relevant subject specific teachers. Although we won't be able to get parents onsite for the usual dissemination of vital information, this afternoon session will ensure that students still receive the necessary information required to support them in making an informed decision.

Further to this information session, students will have a one on one interview with a dedicated teacher where there will be the opportunity to discuss individual subject choices in great depth. The purpose of these interviews is to support our students in feeling confident with the choices they make as well as reinforce the importance of making informed and correct choices. Year 8 Subject selection interviews will be held on Monday 31 August and Year 10 subject selection interviews will be held on the 27 August. Further information about these interviews will be provided to the students and parents closer to the date.

Year 9-Check-in Assessment

As we are about to begin gathering data and information to inform planning for the 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP), it was decided that our school would opt in to do the NSW Department of Education (DoE) Literacy and Numeracy Check-in assessment. The Check-in assessment is an optional online reading and numeracy assessment for students in Years 3, 5 and 9. Unlike NAPLAN, for the literacy component, writing will not be assessed and all questions will be directly related to the students reading abilities.

The primary role of the assessment is to establish where individuals are in their learning so that teaching can be differentiated and further learning progress can be monitored over time. The Check-in assessment complements existing strategies we have in place at our school to assess student learning following the period of learning from home. The assessment is designed to provide teachers with consistent and up-to-date information about their students' skills and abilities in literacy and numeracy and identify students requiring support to successfully engage with stage relevant learning outcomes. The information gathered from this assessment will supplement existing assessment practices already in place at our school and will be used to help inform targeted teaching and intervention strategies.

Our Year 9 students will be completing the assessment this term, during Weeks 5 to 7 (17 August to 4 September 2020), the dates for our students to access the assessment will be confirmed over the coming week. The assessment includes two online assessments for students, one for reading and one for numeracy. Each assessment is designed to be quick and easy to complete, approximately 50 minutes in duration and will consist of roughly 40 multiple choice questions.

Individual student results from this Check-in assessment will not be made public, nor will parents be receiving any formal paperwork with their daughter's results like you usually would in the case of NAPLAN. This tool will simply provide the school some additional data that will be used as we plan for focused improvement and student growth in the new 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP).

Minimum Standards test

Coming up in Week 8 of this term Year 10 will be participating in the HSC Minimum Standard Tests. Students need reading, writing and numeracy for everyday life after school. This is why students in NSW are being supported to meet a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy in order to receive the HSC from 2020. To show they meet the standard students need to:

- Achieve Level 3 or 4 in the online reading test
- Achieve Level 3 or 4 in the online writing test and
- Achieve Level 3 or 4 in the online numeracy test.

Only students who meet the HSC minimum standard will receive a HSC credential.

For any student who does not meet the minimum standard in any of the tests they will have up to four opportunities to sit the test and achieved the set standard. In the case that we have students we do not meet the minimum standards, targeted and ongoing assistance will be provided by our Learning and Support team, working with students enabling them to successfully reach the identified benchmarks in future attempts.

Ms Amber Housego
Relieving Deputy Principal – Curriculum

Creative and Performing Arts

Hello from CAPA!

What a year 2020 has been so far! We are so proud of the way our creative students have coped under difficult circumstances due to the disruption of COVID-19. We are very disappointed that our students have missed the wonderful opportunities to take part in CAPA showcase and performance events that are provided by the faculty each year. The annual Gala Music and Drama Showcase Evenings, as well as our Art Exhibition have all had to be cancelled, but of course we know it has been absolutely necessary in order to keep our school community safe.

Our students are still working diligently and creatively in the classroom and the quality of student work remains impressive. This term, our popular Music tutorial program is back up and running with strict sanitation control measures in place and our Music Ensemble program has also recommenced which is very exciting for our Music students.

During the period of remote learning earlier in the year, our students engaged well with their online tasks and I would like to thank the wonderful CAPA staff for their professionalism and commitment to quality teaching in what were unprecedented and challenging times for teaching and learning in NSW.

Faculty Vision

Earlier in the year, before the world changed somewhat, we collaborated as a faculty to develop a Faculty Vision and goal for the year and we have been enjoying incorporating this vision into our classrooms and lessons and are already seeing some great results.

In CAPA, our faculty goal this year is to promote and create opportunities for all Drama, Music and Visual Arts students to take more creative risks in their work and to foster a classroom culture that recognises and rewards students for stepping outside of their individual comfort zone.

As experienced teachers of high potential and gifted learners, we have often identified that it is the students who do take creative risks and step outside their creative and intellectual comfort zone that gain a richer experience and deeper understanding in their learning. They become freer to think creatively at a higher level, they are not so likely to give up if they experience a setback and in doing this, build more resilience to keep trying. This ultimately leads to higher quality work, greater confidence and a belief that success is achievable and mistakes are crucial on the path to that success. This increasing development of creative and critical thought can be transferred to all subject areas.

Our CAPA faculty vision expands the faculty goal further, being to promote in students the skills that are commonly identified by academics and corporations as crucial for success in their future careers. These skills are critical and creative thinking, the ability to communicate, collaborate and solve problems in groups and the ability to connect what they learn to the world around them.

Our CAPA faculty vision statement is;

Through the study of the Creative and Performing Arts, inspire and engage students to question, reflect and think critically about the world around them and to encourage them to connect their learning. To support students to build confidence to take more creative risks and step outside of their comfort zone in the development of their creative and intellectual capacities. The faculty will promote the importance and ability to work as part of a team and improve group problem solving skills through collaborative and experiential learning, encouraging students to build resilience in adapting to an ever-changing world.

If ever there was a time for people to be resilient, creative, problem solvers, it is now.

Finally, we wish our wonderful Year 12 Drama, Music and Visual Arts students all the very best for their upcoming HSC practical examinations and major works. We are extremely proud of their positive attitudes and consistent effort in what has been a unique year.

We are all in this together.

Ms Lisa Wright
Head Teacher CAPA

English

We are extremely proud of our Year 12 students for completing their English Trial Assessments earlier this month, which as we all know, they have all worked very hard for. In the last leg of their high school journey we are wishing them luck and are sure their diligence will pay off.

The Hachette Australia Writing Competition

We have seen a great turn out of students entering the Hachette Australia Writing Competition, with many entries going through. We wish our girls luck in the competition and in their chances of winning some great prizes including receiving mentorship from an established author, \$500 cash prize, the publication of their work on the Express Media website, their names and acknowledgement printed in *Voiceworks*, Australia's premier youth literary journal, as well as others for shortlisted writers!

We encourage students who have entered the competition to offer their piece of writing to us in the English staffroom. We will select a few to be added to the next Gazette!

Coming Up

SGGHS will be running a graphic novel competition later in the year with many exciting prizes to be won! More information to come.

Debating

We are happy and excited to resume debating for Years 9-11, competing online via Zoom.

We are resuming meetings and training for our eager debaters and are wishing them luck for their competition!

Languages

We have had a very tumultuous few months since our last entry in the Gazette in February. I am proud to say that both students and teachers adapted very well to remote learning and embraced the technology and self-discipline necessary to continue with the coursework. However, I am not alone in saying that we much prefer to be face-to-face with our students as we can enjoy lively interactions with them.

Due to the restrictions of COVID-19 the Languages Faculty has had to cancel a number of excursions that were planned for this year. The excursions contribute to enhancing students' understanding of culture and language, so we are hoping to undertake these excursions later this year or move them into next year for the same student cohort. That way, even though somewhat postponed, students won't miss out on these meaningful opportunities. In the meantime there are many videos and films available that can enrich students' appreciation of both language and culture.

Year 12 students are currently busy with their Trial HSC examinations, but for the French and Japanese students, the Oral HSC examinations are just around the corner. The French Continuers examination is on Saturday, 22 August and the Japanese Continuers examination is on Saturday, 29 August. I know that our students will be busily preparing for these conversations as soon as they have finished their Trial HSC examinations. We wish them good luck.

Coronomics

Studying Economics and Business has never been more important. It's been impossible to miss the enormous impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Australian and global economies. Why has the economy contracted so sharply? How long will it take to recover? How are we going to pay for all this government support? Economics students have been exploring questions like these, applying the syllabus content to the situation evolving around us every day. With the near future certain to provide a challenging environment for both businesses and jobseekers, the skills Business Studies students are learning will be invaluable as they move into further study and then the workforce in the coming years. We appreciate the knowledge and skill brought to bear on such issues with the work of Ms Di Leo, Mr Georgiou, and Mr Walters.

Commerce to Industry – A Natural Progression: Girls in Finance Is Investing in your daughter's future?

Gone are the days of the macho male traders running the show with our nation's money, but women still are greatly under-represented in the Australian finance industry. Banks can only achieve gender equality if there are equal numbers of women and men showing up at their door for interviews. Yet women are still avoiding these opportunities and represent only one third of interview candidates.

While many banks are internally active in promoting female talent, what is happening to girls' attitudes to investment banking in high school and university that is not igniting a spark of interest in this lucrative industry?

One of the strongest predictors of female interest in finance at high school is a parent in the industry. Macquarie Bank wants to know how to get the attention of other girls early and access the remaining untapped potential of diverse talent. In response to an invitation for high schools to nominate five students to attend an open day at Macquarie Bank on 3 March, St George provided 23 attendees on the day (again proving the point 'there's never any harm in asking for more!').

The day was Macquarie's attempt to put its best foot forward in their shiny atrium of chrome and glass in Martin Place, and consisted of three seminars (STEM, Trading, and Human Centred Design) plus an hour-long panel discussion led by the CEO of Macquarie, Shemara Wikramanayake.

The STEM session utilised Scratch as a coding platform with a focus on the importance of logical structure, problem-solving and glitch removal in coding. The Trading Game session demonstrated there was still a knowledge gap to bridge between high school students and enthusiastic finance employees. Students were given a rudimentary outline of long & short positions, and futures contracts in commodities markets. Human Centred Design investigated issues when designers 'know best' without asking users what they want, versus instigating a questioning approach directed towards end users.

Students then had to inquire into designing personal wallets for the 21st century. They quickly got into the swing of things with discussions about what we use wallets for today, and what problems we have faced with a wallet in the past that still need to be overcome.



Demonstrating the focus on gender engagement, the CEO moderated an hour-long panel discussion on career paths for women in finance. She interviewed four recently hired graduates, and students engaged in a Q&A about their education and career paths, choices, and decision-making. Such a platform of 'frank openness' was tempered by the graduates responding in front of the CEO. Still, the useful universal take home 'truths' from the session were that none knew in Year 10 what they wanted to do after the HSC but that was OK, and working hard in your degree (that you love) is more important than the degree being the right fit for particular industries.

Diverse ideas and solutions come from a diverse workforce. Women with non-financial degrees routinely rule themselves out of contention, believing their lack of finance knowledge will be a hurdle. Many believe they might only be successful if 100% knowledgeable before attempting applications in the finance sector. Boys, the panel contended, are more willing to take on the challenge of industry entry even with only an elemental level of industry knowledge.



This focus on generating interest and courage is an intrinsic part of the Social Science Faculty at St George, and we are very happy to help enlighten students about the pathway through Economics, Business Studies and Legal Studies that are an ideal foundational fit for a future in finance.

We would like to thank Mr Murray for taking our girls to this event, providing this account and for imparting his knowledge and industry experience.

Scan the QR Code to watch the video of the day and many of our students.

Careers

Open Day Planner 2020

Many of the Universities have moved online, but several are still holding on-campus Open Days. For the first time, students will easily be able to tour Universities on the other side of Australia, giving you more options than ever before. Find every Open Day from across Australia in the easy-to-use Open Day Planner– see the attached Open Day Planner. Students in Year 10-12 are strongly encouraged to register for events (plus any students in 7-9 who are interested!).

Year 10 Work Experience

As a school we made the decision for the Year 10 2020 cohort to complete a **VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM** in August during their timetabled Career Education Lessons. The decision was made with careful consideration, given the vulnerability of the current labour market, in particular the financial and organisational pressure on employers during this health pandemic and economic downturn.

Apply to Uni Guide 2021

2020 has been a challenging year, particularly for students completing their HSC studies. In recognition of the difficulty students have faced, many universities have taken this into consideration and introduced new entry pathways for 2021. Some of these pathways use the ATAR and some bypass the ATAR system. The 'Apply to Uni Guide 2021' summarises entries schemes for institutions across the country. The guide displayed below has been posted on the Year 12 Google Classroom for student to access.



Student Wellbeing

Since the issue of the last Gazette, the following students have been presented with Dragon Badges:
Molly Maguire-Ward and Maya Singh of Year 7.

Ada Fu, Aurelia Gunawan, Tessa Jolly (3), Rithika Sivakkumaran (2), Gillian Tan and Gigi Wu of Year 8.

Aazeen Khan of Year 9.

Jenny Duong, Mia Feghali (2), Julia Myat and Zaina Siddiqui of Year 10.

Shu-Been Kim (3), Kelly Pan, Anika Tahsin, Amy Vu, Catherine Weng, Angelina Xie and Michelle Yihm of Year 11.

Sadia Khaja (2) of Year 12.

The following students have been presented with a Super Dragon Badge:

Gigi Wu of Year 8.

Anika Tahsin, Amy Vu, Catherine Weng (2) and Angelina Xie of Year 11.

Parents and Citizens' Association

This year has certainly been different as we all learn to adjust to COVID-19 measures. We are already well into Term 3. We are planning to hold our next meeting on site at the school on Thursday 27 August 2020 in the Staff Common Room, so we can have the AGM and safely do this with physical distancing protocols in place. At the AGM all office-bearer positions are open for election so please consider attending even if it's just to cast a vote. Being part of the P&C committee is very rewarding and we welcome all new members. If you would like any further information about any of the positions I would be more than happy to provide further information.

Following the AGM, the School Counsellor Mrs Michelle Batten will be our Guest Speaker. In the current climate hearing about the vital role of the School Counsellor at SGGHS and how this role supports the wellbeing of students and families will be well-received by the parents/carers. I know many parents/carers will look forward to hearing her presentation at the August meeting and we look forward to seeing many of you then.

Sharon Khan

President, Parents and Citizens'

sggh.pca@gmail.com

Mothers' Committee

Thank you to Ms Romeo for her Principal's Report and to Mrs Williamson, our guest speaker on the Wellbeing program at our meeting this month. It was a very informative session providing an insight into the program and the many ways it is assisting our students in their development, and how the program is rising to the challenges that the current changing environment is presenting.

Our upcoming special guest speaker will be Mrs Forster (Head Teacher TAS).

Next Meeting: Wednesday 2 September at 10am in the School Library.

Annual General Meeting

At our last meeting, we elected a new Executive Committee.

President: Kim Le

Vice President (Uniform Shop): Cathy Anderson

Vice President (Gazette and Publicity): Nadisa Milo

Treasurer: Rokeya Akhand

Secretary: Hui-Chuen Hoh

Thanks to our departing President: Edwina Murphy, Treasurer: Carol Chew, for their contribution.

Mother-Daughter Dinner

Just a reminder that, under these current circumstances, the annual Mother-Daughter Dinner has been postponed until next year.

Uniform Shop News

Term 3 is the time for Year 9 to get their senior uniforms so that we can focus on the incoming Year 7 students in Term 4, so please encourage your daughter to come and be fitted.

We also have for sale a great selection of second hand items in excellent condition, generously donated by students. All profits from the sale of uniforms are donated back to the school.

A reminder of our opening hours: The Uniform Shop is open from 1pm-3:30pm on Wednesdays. Students can come during their lunch break (1:10pm – 1:45pm) or immediately after school.

If you are able to volunteer, between 12:45-2pm on Wednesdays, either once a month or once a term, please contact Cathy and let her know – we really appreciate all our volunteers!

The Mothers' Committee is a great opportunity to get to know other parents and find out what's happening at St George Girls High. Thank you to Ms Romeo who regularly attends our meetings and gives us the opportunity to ask questions about our daughters' education.

With best wishes to you and your family,

Kim Le
President, Mothers' Committee
Contact Ph: 0421 849 7534

Cathy Anderson
Uniform Shop Coordinator
Contact Ph: 0423 533 855

St Georgians

We are certainly living in interesting times due to the current pandemic situation, with so many of our normal routines and activities affected. For the Year 12/2020 students this is especially true. The St Georgians wish the students well for their HSC Trials and for their future studies.

Again due to the current situation, the decision was made to cancel the St Georgians 2020 Annual General Meeting and for the sitting committee to stay in place for a further term.

Our committee members are:

President – Kim Archibald

Vice President/Secretary – Heather Jennings

Treasurer – Margaret James

Vice Presidents (Merchandise) – Cheryl Care and Diana Cornish

The St Georgians usually meet on the fourth Thursday of each month during school terms, at the St George Leagues Club, 124 Princes Highway Kogarah. However, at this time, these meetings have been suspended. If you need any information about the St Georgians please don't hesitate to contact us at the email or numbers below.

TheStGeorgians@hotmail.com

Kim Archibald
President, St Georgians
0410 582 636

Heather Jennings
Secretary
9501 4641