

St George Girls High School

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Monthly Bulletin

June 2020
Vol. 25 No. 4



Parents & Citizens' Association Meeting

Thursday 25 June
Held Via Zoom
7pm

Parent Teacher Weeks

Years 11 and 12

Monday 15 June – Friday 19 June

Years 7 and 10

Monday 29 June – Friday 3 July

Years 8 and 9

Monday 27 July – Friday 31 July

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

It has been fantastic to have our students return to full-time face-to-face learning at school. The school's usual energy has been restored and I would like to thank the teachers for the incredible job they have done over the past few weeks to settle our learners back into the school routine, even if things are still not quite the same. We have been monitoring our learners very closely and they are doing so well in all aspects of their return back to school after a period of remote learning. I have come to appreciate just how resilient and collaborative we are as a school community and how adaptable our teachers and students can be when faced with uncertainty and a collective problem to solve.

I want to thank our parents/carers for their support and working with the school as we have (and continue) to navigate through this difficult period together. As we now emerge out of the COVID-19 bubble, it is a welcomed opportunity to reflect on the key learnings that this period has provided for schools, leadership teams, teachers and students. The virus has changed the world forever, and even though our students have returned and are settling back into the school routine, we do not want to go back to the way things were, passing over the opportunity that this period in our history as inadvertently presented for us as educators.

There is no doubt that our teachers have just worked through a significant period of professional learning and we want to take some of the good things that we have learnt from a pedagogical perspective with us as we move forward. I know that we will now find the opportunity to complete this important reflection activity as a staff to ensure that we integrate some of our new and effective skills into our teaching and learning practice.

While I rarely become philosophical in my communication with the community, I have worked through my own personal reflection as both a leader and educator, during what has been a very challenging and demanding period as a high school Principal. This period has reinforced and highlighted for me a few key messages that I wanted to share with each of you.

- Schools are central to a vibrant thriving community. A school without students, staff and the sounds of productive learning, feels empty. Schools lack heart, soul and character when students, teachers and parents/carers are forced to be apart.
- There is no substitute for quality and interactive face-to-face teaching and learning and connection.
- Technology and remote learning, as good as it is, never beats students learning in a classroom from their teachers and alongside their peers.
- Teachers and Administration and Support staff are incredible people – highly adaptive, creative, innovative, resilient, hard- working, and prepared to do anything for their students and for their school.
- Students are very resilient and adaptive. We should never underestimate what our learners are capable of when they are given the opportunity to shine and take calculated risks.
- When parents/carers and teachers work together in a spirit of co-operation, collaboration, partnership and goodwill, they can achieve incredible things for their children and students.
- The simple things in life are the most valuable and important; family, friends, friendship, community, being able to be with each other – and above all else, being able to give and receive care from those who mean most to us is central to the human experience.
- Don't sweat the small stuff, trust in those around you, and it will all work out in the end.
- We actually don't need much each day and it's amazing how the simple things in life actually keep you buoyant such as a relaxing walk outdoors.
- Kindness is so powerful. Despite the pressure and stresses we have all been under, so much kindness has been shown between people, and it has built up friendships and relationships that wouldn't otherwise exist.
- While spending time at home is nice, we are social beings and are hard-wired to be with other people. Connection to people is what allows us to best keep an eye on each other and be aware of what is going on around us. This cannot be replicated through a computer screen, or via an online meeting. So much of what we do is based on simple human face-to-face connection.

I now look forward to settling back into the school routine and hopefully start to deliver all that our school offers each year. Our school calendar is looking very sad at the moment as we have needed to cancel or postpone a number of our usual events and activities due to COVID-19. The Athletics Carnival, numerous excursions, Year 9 Camp, the Mother Daughter Dinner, P&C meetings, the Walkathon, are just some of the things that have come and gone without being actioned in 2020. It is all of the events and activities that complete the SGGHS experience and I look forward to having more of the current restrictions currently in place lifted soon, so we can begin to plan and schedule the array of experiences that we have come to look forward to annually at our school.

SGGHS Archives

The school has a great archive collection that generations of St Georgians have contributed to and I am looking at compiling a series of primary sources to include in the SGGHS archives that documents this most unique period of living history that we are currently experiencing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

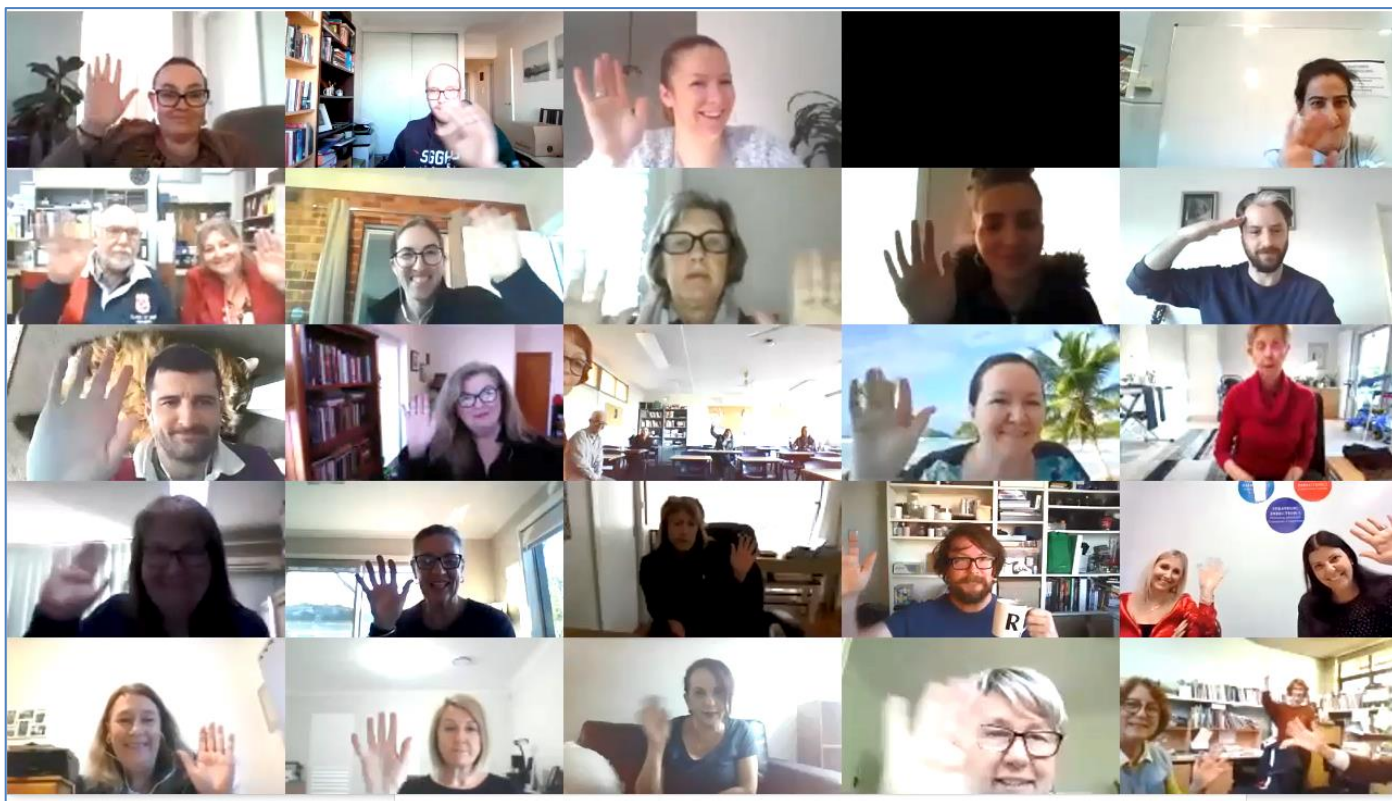


The historian in me is in the process of collating a series of staff, student and parent/carers reflections, a few images of how learning was undertaken during the period of remote learning and how learning is now being undertaken with the physical distancing and enhanced hygiene measures in place.



I am inviting parents/carers and students to write and/or share with me a few of their thoughts, experiences, perspectives and images of learning at home and forward these to me for collation via the school email stgeorgegi-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

I look forward to receiving these contributions to collate into a valuable primary resource that can be accessed in the years to come by future St Georgians. I have included some images that I have already received that captured a staff federation meeting via Zoom, a classroom Zoom lesson and some images of the what the classrooms look like now with physical distancing and additional hygiene measures in place.



Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on School Students with Disability Notification for Parents and Carers

From 2015, all Government and non-Government schools across Australia are required to participate annually in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD).

All Australian schools will collect data on their students who are receiving adjustments to meet additional learning and support needs in accordance with their obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Disability Standards for Education 2005*. This data will be provided to the Australian Government to assist in the development of a consistent, national picture of the education needs of students with disability.

The data provided to the Australian Government by the NSW Department of Education is provided in such a way that it cannot be used to identify any individual student or school. General information about the national data collection can be found on the Australian Government Department of Education and Training website at <https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/nationally-consistent-collection-data-parentcarer-fact-sheet-english> and this information is translated into 11 community languages via the links on this website.

The school will soon complete the data collection for 2020 and parents will be informed if their daughter has been included in the data collection. Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students and their families is essential. Personal details such as student names or other identifying information will not be provided to local or federal education authorities. A fact sheet with additional information about the NCCD is available on the school website under the news and events tab.

This valuable data is used to calculate the funding the school receives to support students with disabilities in the school and each year these funds are used to provide student mentors and additional support in areas such as organisation, time management and literacy skills.

Open Day 2020 and Years 8-11 2021 Application Process

The school will be hosting its annual Open Day for prospective students and their families on Thursday 3 September to showcase the school and celebrate the breadth of opportunities that it provides for its students. The morning will involve an Open Day Assembly commencing at 10:30am in the school hall. School tours will also run in two sessions commencing at 9:30am prior to the assembly or at 11:30am at the conclusion of the assembly.

Registration for the Open Day tours are essential and can be made online using School Interviews. Open day bookings will open at the start of Term 3 and please check the school website for the unique event code that will be needed to make bookings. Two tour sessions are available and families can select their preferred time. All guests are invited to attend the Open Day Assembly that will be held between tours at 10:30am in the Hall. Open Day.

We look forward to hosting this morning and welcome any prospective families of enrolments into Years 7-11 in 2021 to attend this event. Please let family and friends know about the Open Day and we anticipate a highly successful morning. Just a reminder that **applications for placement into Years 8-11 2021** open on Friday 19 June 2020 and will close on Friday 24 July 2020. Additional information about the schools selection process and the 2021 application forms are available on the school website that can be accessed from the following link www.sgghs.com.au/our-school/enrolment

Congratulations Mrs Rahmi

I received the most wonderful news last week that Mrs Pamela Rahmi welcomed a little boy, Zachary Rahmi safely into the world on the 5 June. He is very cute and I have sent Mrs Rahmi and her husband our congratulations and well wishes as they begin their parenting journey together. We look forward to meeting her little boy in the coming months.

P&C Update

Virtual meetings have never been possible for P&C Associations, as the Constitution for P&C Associations have no guidelines for virtual meetings. This means that the only way P&C Associations can make decisions is at face-to-face meetings at which a quorum of members are physically present.

I am pleased to communicate that the NSW Minister for Education has now officially amended the Constitution of incorporated P&C Associations to allow for virtual meetings to take place. The P&C Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled to take place on Thursday 25 June at 7:00pm. It is likely that this meeting will take place virtually in the current climate and communication regarding the specific details will be sent to parents soon. The P&C works so effectively to support the school and I encourage all parents/carers to consider becoming involved and taking on the various positions available on the P&C.

I wish our school community a safe and relaxing end of Term 2 break and I look forward to things returning back to normal when we return back for Term 3, which commences for staff on Monday 20 July and all students on Tuesday 21 July.

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:

Zahra Fathullah of Year 11.

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

Dana Arenas Valentin, Miriam Attia, Ellie Dang, Adrika Das, Aurelia Gunawan (2), Agustin Hardjawana, Mavis Hong, Isabelle Jiang, Alina Joseph, Edwina Li, Hailey Lo, Sophia Lu, Jacinta Mo, Aaishi Pachori, Phyllis Pun, Rithika Sivakkumaran, Gillian Tan, Sarah Tran, Azkiya Umam, Abbie Wang, Nudrat Zakaria, Meredith Zhang, Zoe Zhao, Sophia Zhou, Isabella Zhu and Olivia Zou of Year 8.

Alyssa Gunawan, Houda Hamadi, Bethany Hong, Aazeen Khan, Clair Lu, Caitlin Matthews, Anjana Rajeepan, Ananya Sharma, Afrina Tanisha, Jessica Tram, Christy Wu, Cindy Xie and Akshara Yadem (2) of Year 9.

Tiffany Ali, Hafsah Atif, Yashwini Gopal (3), Yanting Huang, Jenna Lee (2), Ryfah Mohsin, Jessie Wang (2) and Monica Zhou (4) of Year 10.

Zahra Fathullah (6), Alisa Greyze, Maya Guden, Rokika Khondaker (2), Kyee Lei, Rose Mores (3), Noelle Nakano, Alicia Nguyen, Phoebe Tandjiria (2), Amy Vu and Ayesha Waheed of Year 11.

Alice Liao (2), Winnie Tan (3), Carmen Truong (2) and Jacqueline Xu (2) of Year 12.

Ms Betty Romeo
Principal

Deputy Principal's Report – Teaching and Learning

Winter Uniform

All students should now be wearing winter uniform and should ensure that they are only wearing official SGGHS uniform items. Students are reminded that they may wear a black tailored coat over their jumper if they require additional warmth, especially travelling to and from school. Scarves, if worn, are to be plain red, navy or white. Students are now also permitted to wear a beanie to and from school and during recess and lunch, but it must be plain red, navy or white. Opaque black stockings may be worn as an alternative to the white ankle socks and skirts are to be no more than 10 cm above the knee. Adherence to uniform provides a sense of belonging and pride in being part of the St George cohort. The students are reminded that if they are not wearing correct uniform, they should bring a note from their parent/carer and collect a uniform pass from the Deputy Principal before the start of the day. For any student who does not have a note from home, they must collect a uniform infringement from the front kiosk before period 1.

Parenting Ideas

This month's article from 'Insights' is **'Successfully Transitioning Students Back To School'**. Returning to school after a remote learning experience is another new challenge for students. By focusing on reconnection, parents and teachers can make this adjustment easier for kids.

Upcoming Parent Webinar: Understanding Techno-Tantrums

When: Wednesday 17 June 2020 – 8:00pm

Presenter: Dr Kristy Goodwin

Webinar Overview: In this digital era, chances are we've all experienced our children throwing a techno-tantrum. Techno-tantrums are completely normal and often a result of the neurobiological changes that occur when kids use technology. But this doesn't mean that we have to simply accept that they're part of our modern parenting reality. In this webinar Dr Kristy Goodwin helps parents and carers understand why children and teens emotionally combust when they digitally-disconnect, and how to establish new, healthy technology habits. Key learning and discussion points include:

- The science behind why kids and teens have techno tantrums and find it challenging to switch off screens
- How to establish and enforce firm guidelines and boundaries
- How to be the pilot of the digital plane
- Researched based, realistic strategies to help develop healthy digital behaviours so that screen time doesn't end in 'scream time'

Please see the attached PDF for details on how to redeem the free webinar voucher

Study Skills Tip for June

This month's study skills tip, **'Helping Students Transition Back to Full-Time Schooling'**, outlines 7 key strategies to effectively support students as they return back to face-to-face learning at school.

Ms Pamela Abson
Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning

Relieving Deputy Principal's Report – Curriculum

Parent Teacher Interviews

In line with current Department of Education guidelines, wherever possible Parent/Carer/Teacher meetings should be conducted using alternative methods. Therefore, the scheduled Parent Teachers interviews will look little different this term. It was decided that rather than hold the traditional face-to-face interviews over the course of one evening, we are shifting to a Parent Teacher Week.

During the period of remote learning, teachers were in contact with students and parents/cares providing regular feedback on their progress and learning. The Semester one school reports will provide detailed information about your daughter's progress and achievement across all subjects.

Parents are welcome to make an appointment to speak with your daughter's class teachers if further information is still required. However, please be reassured that if there were any areas of concern that needed attention, parents/carers would most certainly have been contacted.

Parents/Carers can make a booking for a 5 minute phone interview throughout the identified Parent Teacher Week. Bookings will be made via <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au>, the same platform the school has used for previous Parent Teacher Evenings. Teachers will be available at various times throughout the week, accommodating their teaching timetable.

Year 11 and 12 Parent Teacher Week will be held from Monday 15 June – Friday 19 June 2020.

Year 10 and 7 Parent Teacher Week will be held from Monday 29 June – Friday 3 July 2020.

Year 8 and 9 Parent Teacher Week will be held from Monday 27 July – Friday 31 July 2020.

Year 12 Trial Information

Over the next few weeks, Year 12's will begin receiving important information regarding their upcoming Trial Examination Block. The two week examination period will commence on Friday of Week 3 (Friday 31 July) and finish on Friday 14 August. Where possible we try to mimic our Trial examination schedule with the HSC examination schedule and have found this to be of great benefit for our girls. The Trial examination timetable will be released to all students in week 10 this term.

Year 12's have been working well in class with their teachers and are utilising their time at school productively. Looking forward to the School holidays, this is an opportune time for Year 12's to consolidate their knowledge and prepare for these important exams. We strongly encourage all students to develop a realistic study plan for these two weeks, one that allows sufficient time for thorough revision and consolidation of knowledge across all subjects. Additionally, ensuring you get good sleep, are eating regularly and healthily, and are fitting in some time for leisure and exercise will also help to keep you motivated and focused during your study time. Year 12 students are encouraged to meet with their teacher-mentor, Year Advisor or Deputy Principal leading up to these exams for any support or guidance needed.

Ms Amber Housego

Relieving Deputy Principal – Curriculum

Student Wellbeing

Since the issue of the last Gazette, the following students have been presented with Dragon Badges:

Aurelia Gunawan, Tanuri Jayatilaka, Tessa Jolly (2), Isabella Lee (3), Chloe Liu, Sophia Lu, Sai Vibha Pothuganti, Abeeha Siddiqui, Gillian Tan, Sarah Tran (2), Gigi Wu and Nudrat Zakaria of Year 8.

Alyssa Gunawan, Raksha Harichandra (4), Eliza Hoh (2), Daanya Sudesh, Christy Wu and Akshara Yadem (2) of Year 9.

Chaturmi Atapattu, Sabrina Huang (7), Jessica Lau (2), Eleni Markantonakis, Mary Murray (2), Agnes Tjokrosetio and Jacqueliya Widjaja of Year 10.

Zahra Fathullah, Evangelina Ferekos, Maya Guden, Rokika Khondaker, Kyee Lei (2), Rose Mores (3), Noelle Nakano (4), Alicia Nguyen (2), Rana Oral (3), Anika Tahsin (2), Amy Vu, Jacqueline Widjaja and Angelina Xie (2) of Year 11.

Ain-UI-Qamar Ali, Victoria Chan, Vienna Chan, Mercoria Farhoud, Samantha Law and Sammi Lee of Year 12.

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

Aurelia Gunawan of Year 8.

Sabrina Huang, Eleni Markantonakis and Mary Murray of Year 10.

Evangelina Ferekos and Angelina Xie Year 11.

Mercoria Farhoud, Samantha Law and Sammi Lee of Year 12.

Parents and Citizens' Association

School has now returned to some normality with face to face teaching resuming last week. We thank all parents for learning to cope with our new normal. We also thank the teachers and administrative staff who have kept the school running and continuing our girls education in these trying times.

Although the P&C have not been able to meet lately, the P&C still provides valuable support to the school. The next P&C meeting is on Thursday 25 June at 7.00pm and will be our Annual General Meeting. The details of this meeting will be given closer to the date as virtual conferencing is being considered. Please book this time in your calendars and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Kind regards,

Sharon Khan

President, Parents and Citizens'

sggh.pca@gmail.com

Mothers' Committee

Our next meeting will be at 10am on Wednesday, 1 July. We will let you know closer to the time whether it will be in person or via Zoom.

This is our AGM, so we will be electing new committee members, including President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Please consider whether this is a way in which you would like to contribute to our school. You are welcome to call or email me if you have any questions about what is involved.

Mother-Daughter Dinner

We have decided, in consultation with Ms Romeo, to postpone the Mother-Daughter Dinner until next year. It's disappointing, as we always have a wonderful time and the prefects had come up with a great theme, but under the circumstances we thought it was best. We look forward to celebrating next year in May/June as usual.

Uniform Shop News

Thank you everyone for your patience at the uniform shop as we have attempted to provide what students need within the constraints we have faced. Uniform Shop will be open every Wednesday for the rest of the school term from 1pm – 3:30pm for **pick up of items ordered online**. Orders must be paid for by **Monday night** in order to be picked up on Wednesday. Alternatively, students can pay by card when they pick the items up.

Order forms are on the school website here: <http://www.sggghs.com.au/our-school/uniform> .

We recognise there have been challenges, especially with working out the correct size, as well as some popular sizes not being in stock. We now have the full range available, with the exception of some sizes of tracksuit jackets which will be available within the next couple of weeks.

Ms Romeo has extended the uniform exemption until the end of Week 7, which should cover most students. If your daughter has a problem after this due to supply issues, please send a note to school and they can be issued with a uniform pass by the Principal or one of the Deputy Principals, as per the usual process.

We hope to be able to return to our normal operations in Term 3.

If you can help in the uniform shop between 12:45pm-2pm at any time, please contact Cathy and let her know – we really appreciate all our volunteers!

Best wishes,

Edwina

Edwina Murphy
President, Mothers' Committee
Email: edwinam@morling.edu.au
Contact Ph: 0409 413 218

Cathy Anderson
Uniform Shop Coordinator
Contact Ph: 0423 533 855

St Georgians

The St Georgians (formerly known as The Old Girls Union) was formed in 1929, with a twofold purpose – keeping former students in touch, and raising funds for the school. The cost of Life Membership is a one off payment of \$30.00. To join, please download the membership Form from the school website – you will find our page under the “Parents and Community Groups” tag.

2020 Annual General Meeting

Our next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting to be held at 11.00am on Thursday 23 July 2020 at St George Leagues Club, Kogarah (social distancing regulations permitting). If you would like to attend, please get in touch prior to the day to confirm our meeting place within the club.

We are always keen to meet new members and look forward to seeing you there. We have a great group of ladies of all ages, and it's a fun, relaxed atmosphere. We also invite you to stay after the meeting for a little socialising and perhaps lunch in the Bistro.

Join us on Facebook – a great way to keep up with news and find and stay in contact with old school friends. We have formed a “closed group”– simply search Facebook for The St Georgians and choose The St Georgians closed group and ask to join.

TheStGeorgians@hotmail.com

Kim Archibald
President, St Georgians
0410 582 636



St George Girls Make News!

ST GEORGE & SUTHERLAND SHIRE
Leader

NAPLAN Sutherland Shire, St George: School results revealed

Single-sex schools, selective high schools and private schools have dominated the NAPLAN rankings for high schools across the Shire and St George.

We've crunched the latest results to rank every school.

[Eliza Barr](#), St George Shire Standard

May 1, 2020 12:00am



Single-sex schools, selective high schools and private schools have once again dominated the NAPLAN rankings for high schools across the Shire and St George.

St George Girls High School in Kogarah took the number one spot across the region with a score of 664.3, closely followed by Caringbah High School with 659.3 and Sydney Technical High School in Bexley.

All three are academically selective public high schools.

Danebank Anglican School for Girls and St George Christian School both in Hurstville rounded out the top five.

St Ursula's College in Kingsgrove, Inaburra School in Bangor, St Patrick's College in Sutherland, Marist Catholic College in Penshurst and Kirrawee High School completed the top 10.

Kirrawee High School was the only public and non-selective high school across the Shire and St George to crack the top 10.



YEAR 7 RESULTS

St George Girls had the highest-performing Year 7 cohort with 652.6, followed by Caringbah with 645.4 and Sydney Tech with 638.8.

Caringbah High School came first in Year 7 reading with a score of 652 followed by St George Girls with 646 and Sydney Tech with 634.

Sydney Tech topped the Year 7 writing results with a score of 601, followed by St George Girls on 585 and Caringbah on 582.

St George Girls took out Year 7 spelling with a score of 664 followed by Sydney Tech and Caringbah both with 651.

St George Girls also topped Year 7 grammar with 651, followed by Caringbah with 649 and Sydney Tech with 632.

St George Girls also got a whopping 701 in Year 7 numeracy, followed by Caringbah with 693 and Sydney Tech with 692.

YEAR 9 RESULTS

St George Girls also had the highest-performing Year 9 cohort with a score of 676, followed by Caringbah with 673.2 and Sydney Tech with 663.4.

Caringbah High School came first in Year 9 reading with a score of 668, followed by St George Girls with 665 and Sydney Tech with 653.

St George Girls took out Year 9 writing with 645, followed by Caringbah with 619 and Sydney Tech with 613.

St George Girls also took out Year 9 spelling with 683, followed by Caringbah with 676 and Sydney Tech with 671.

Caringbah topped Year 9 grammar with 683, followed by St George Girls with 679 and Sydney Tech with 660.

Caringbah and Sydney Tech tied for first place in Year 9 numeracy on 720, followed by St George Girls on 708.

TOP 10 SCHOOLS ACROSS ST GEORGE

St George Girls High School, Kogarah

Sydney Technical High School, Bexley

Danebank, Hurstville

St George Christian School, Hurstville

St Ursula's, Kingsgrove

Marist Catholic College, Penshurst

Bethany College, Hurstville

Penshurst Girls Georges River College

Marist College, Kogarah

St Mary's and St Mina's, Bexley