St George Girls High School



Monthly Bulletin

August 2021

Vol. 26 No.5



Parents & Citizens' Association Meeting

Thursday 26 August via Zoom 7pm

Mothers' Committee Meeting

Wednesday 1 September via Zoom 10am

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students.



Thank You to the SGGHS Community

We have made it to the halfway point of Term 3 and none of us could have imagined that we would once again find ourselves needing to reactivate our SGGHS remote learning school operations in 2021.

In terms of remote learning, I acknowledge the challenge it presents to everyone, particularly our students who are not able to learn and share their daily lives in the way we know works best - in a classroom, with their teachers and peers, and part of a larger school community. Our thoughts are with our Year 12 students at

this difficult time, who have had a very important milestone in their educational journey disrupted by a set of changeable circumstances beyond their control. We wish the students all the best for their upcoming Alternate Assessment Task Block that commences on Monday 23 August.

As Principal, I wish to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the SGGHS teachers and administration and support staff, for their commitment to providing our students with outstanding and high-quality teaching and learning remotely. They are working exceptionally hard and going well beyond the call of their vocation, and I know this has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated by our community.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a committed and caring group working together for the benefit of our students. I also want to congratulate our students who continue to show resilience and dedication to their learning in these very difficult circumstances.

Remote learning this term is not a sprint; it is more likely to be an Olympic marathon as we head towards the 28 August to see how the situation unfolds in NSW. I have spoken with many parents, students and staff over the past few weeks and have been encouraged by their voices of support, gratitude and positivity.

I now encourage all our students to keep going, be strong, and determined and do your personal best - we can ask nothing more of you than this. I also know that this period will pass and we will see you back at school in no time. Until then, continue to engage in your learning, and don't forget to integrate self-care and self-compassion strategies into your daily routines to ensure that your wellbeing is prioritised and nurtured in order to remain buoyant and avoid burnout.

This week we begin to implement the enhancements to the SGGHS remote learning operations that have been carefully considered and based on the student, teacher and parent/carers feedback received from the 2021 remote learning survey undertaken. An overview of these key changes commencing in Week 5 include:

- Increase in the number of Year 12 Check-In lessons from 2 to 4 online interactions per week for 2 unit courses.
- Increase in the number of Year 11 Check-In lessons from 2 to 3 online interactions per week.
- Increase in the number of Years 7-10 Check-In lessons (for courses that have 4 periods or more per week) from 1 to 2 online interactions per week.
- An overall reduction in the amount of work assigned for students to complete each week, with a suggested time allocation assigned to assist students with working through their learning tasks and managing their time more effectively.
- A request not to set additional homework on top of the weekly learning tasks allocated.
- Ideally teachers will upload the learning tasks at the start of the week, so the students can plan and organise their week to ensure that they can effectively complete the tasks assigned. Teachers will use the check-in lessons to explain what is required to complete the learning tasks for the week.
- An increase in the inclusion of teaching and learning strategies that enhance student engagement, discussion and interaction during check-in lesson time.
- A reduction in the number of compulsory submission tasks from 2 to at least 1 task per week.
- The Wellbeing team to develop and integrate a series of key strategies to further enhance student wellbeing and connectedness across all year groups.
- Attendance Check-in to be completed by 8:45am to align with the SGGHS Roll Call period.

Latest COVID-19 DoE Advice and Resources for Families



Parents and carers

Guidance and materials for students or parents, carers and learning support staff.



HSC central

HSC hub, advice for students and teachers, wellbeing resources and other support materials for the HSC. While I will continue to communicate via email to students and families to keep you up to date with any developments or advice. I also encourage our students and families to regularly check the DoE website for the most up to date information on the state of play for NSW government school operations. I have provided the link to the website below for our parents/carers to access.

https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families

The **Learning From Home** resources also available on the website for students and families are constantly being updated and I encourage you to take a look at the resources available.

https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home

Two of the new additions to this site is an 'essentials' toolkit for parents and carers packed with self-care tips and handy lists as well as a **HSC Hub** with useful advice and wellbeing support for students leading into the HSC. The links are provided below for parents/carers and students to access.

https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carers-toolkit

https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home/hsc-central

P&C Annual General Meeting

On Thursday 24 June the P&C Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held via Zoom. I would like to thank outgoing executive committee for their commitment and professionalism demonstrated during their term in office. Thank you to the 2020/2021 President, Mrs Sharon Khan and Vice-President Mrs Cathy Anderson in particular for their leadership of the P&C during this unpredictable period and for their ongoing support for our school community.

Congratulations to our returning and new P&C office bearers for 2021/2022:

President: Mrs Sharon Khan Vice-President: Mrs Hui Hoh Secretary: Mrs Sue Markantonakis

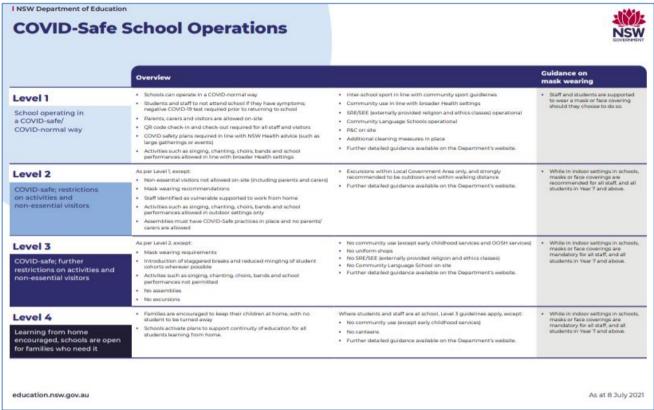
Treasurer: Mrs Mon Zin, with the support from Mr Warren Mak

Fundraising Coordinator: Mrs Cathy Anderson **Finance Committee Representative:** Vacant

We look forward to continuing our productive partnership and working together over the coming year on a range of exciting ventures designed to continue to improve the learning outcomes and experiences of our students.

Open Day 2021 Cancelled

The scheduled Open Day that was to take place on Thursday 26 August will (for second year in a row) unfortunately be cancelled. The DoE has released a **COVID-Safe School Operations** model that outlines 4 clear levels of operation and the activities permitted at each level. At the moment, we are operating at Level 4 and visitors on school sites are not permitted until we return to level 1 operations and in the current climate this is not looking likely anytime soon. The school will look to schedule some smaller group tours in Term 4 if permitted to do so. I have also included the **COVID-Safe School Operations** graphic below for your information.



Higher Ability Selection Test (HAST) Postponed

On Saturday 7 August, we were scheduled to have prospective students in Years 8-11 sit the Higher Ability Selection Test (HAST) at St George Girls High School. This year we received 246 total applications, this number is up from 234 total applications in 2020 which is always pleasing news to report. This test is developed by Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER) and assesses reading, written expression, mathematical and abstract reasoning. The HAST serves a very important role in supporting the selection committee manage the process of selecting our prospective students for 2022.

Understandably, we have not been granted permission to host this test on school grounds and the coordinating high schools now working on a Plan B to put into place later this term. It is always encouraging to have receive an increased number of families express interest in applying for the limited positions at St George Girls. This serves as a further testament to great work we do serving our high potential learners.

Drama Showcase and Music Gala Evening

We were very fortunate to be able to conclude last term with two of our scheduled evenings that are designed to showcase the exceptional talents of our very creative Drama and Music students. Unfortunately, the guidelines swiftly changed and our annual Inspired evening was unable to go ahead. We do hope that we are able to host the Inspired evening later on this year in some capacity.

The Drama Showcase and Music Gala evenings were very well-attended and the audience members were again blown away by the quality of performances, skill and ability of every student involved. I would like to thank the parents and the staff who attended these evenings and for the continued support shown to the students and the school community as a whole.

I would like to thank the CAPA staff for investing the time and effort to ensure that these opportunities continue to be available for our students. I would also like to thank our TAS staff as I know significant time was invested in preparing and rehearsing for the Inspired evening, despite the last minute postponement. I have included a few snapshots captured from the performance evenings below.

























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 key achievements I wanted to share.

- SGGHS was the winning girls' school at the Zone Athletics Carnival held on the 17 June on a total of 418 points. All our relay teams qualified through to the Regional Athletics Carnival which is great news.
- At the end of last term, I was advised of the following exemplary achievements from our Class of 2020.
 Clarissa Lee's short fiction has been selected for inclusion in Young Writers showcase 2020, the anthology of compositions from the 2020 Higher School Certificate English Extension 2 course.

Tiffany Li was selected for TEXSTYLE 2021. Tiffany completed this course via Sydney Distance Education High School. This year, 3D photography of the student work has been taken and uploaded onto a website, as there was not a physical exhibition. I have included the website link below to view her project. I am sure you will agree that the quality of her final project is outstanding.





https://texstyle-exhibition.com.au/2021/projects/08/

I received correspondence The Arts Unit to celebrate the success of Katelyn Labrakis (Year 10) in the recent NSW Public Schools Drama Company production of 'Tales from the Wild Bush'. Katelyn began rehearsals for this production as a part of the auditioned Drama Company ensemble in Term 1. The ensemble of 18 students, aged 12-18 from NSW public schools, devised an original 45 minute children's theatre show for Stage 1.



Students creatively collaborated to devise the original narrative including characters, learnt skills in puppetry and stagecraft, manipulated dramatic

elements and interacted with their audience. They performed 8 shows for more than 350 Year 1 students and 200 members of the general public. They also had the opportunity to work with industry professionals, directors Robert Jago and Emma Palmer, and perform in partnership with the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).

 Under the current NSW Health and Department of Education guidelines, The Arts Unit's Drama Ensemble program has moved from delivering in person ensembles to instead run online ensembles for Semester 2. The new drama ensemble program can be taught directly online and each will complete an online performance project that we will share with our students, parents and schools at the end of the year. The final selections have been made for this year's NSW Public Schools Digital Drama Ensembles and I am proud to announce that Molly Maguire-Ward in Year 8 has made the list. Well done.

As we now settle into the groove of remote learning for the second half of the term, I wanted to thank our community for your ongoing trust and support. I will continue to be in touch with our students and parents/carers over the coming weeks to communicate any changes or updates as they are received.

I also look forward to seeing many parents/carers online at **the P&C meeting scheduled for Thursday 26 August at 7:00pm**. The guest speaker will be our School Psychologist Ms Elizabeth McAlpine and I know many families are looking forward to hearing from her, particularly at this testing time. The Zoom meeting details will be communicated closer to the date.

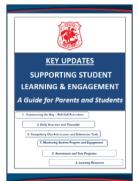
Until then, please take care and keep safe and do not hesitate to reach out for support from your school as we continue to work together through this challenging and changeable time.

Ms Betty Romeo **Principal**

Deputy Principal's Report – Teaching and Learning

Updated Remote Learning Documents

he remote learning support documents have been updated to outline key modifications to our school processes and support. The two documents added to the Student/Parent Portal relate to student learning and engagement, and supporting positive wellbeing.



Supporting Student Learning and Engagement outlines procedures around logging attendance and roll call, daily routine and the timetable, attendance at compulsory check-in lessons and completion of the compulsory submission task. It also provides information about monitoring student progress, school-based assessments and year programs, as well as learning resource links and support.



Supporting Positive Wellbeing provides the wellbeing structure at SGGHS and referral process for who to contact for support. It outlines the different ways wellbeing is supported during remote learning as well as online support for parents and students.

All remote learning documents can be found in the Student/Parent Portal/Resources/Continuity of Learning.

Parenting Ideas

This month's articles from 'Insights' are:

'Riding the COVID waves'. The disruption caused by the pandemic continues and regardless of where you live, the sense of the pandemic is always present and ready to disrupt daily life at short notice. The article outlies strategies that will help the family stay upright as they ride the coronavirus waves of uncertainty and change.

'Make Time for Down Time'. If your teenage children live wound-up, highly scheduled lives then they need to rediscover the lost art of down-town. The article outlies three compelling reasons why down time is important.

Study Skills Tip for August

This month's study skills tip is 'How To Stay Positive About Your Schoolwork'. It can be difficult to stay positive at all times about your schoolwork, particularly if you have challenges whether they be personal or whether you are grappling with something like online learning. The study skills tips provides strategies and ideas to support you in staying positive.

Ms Pamela Abson

Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning Deputy Principal – Year 8, 10 and 12

Deputy Principal's Report - Curriculum

Subject Selection

erm 3 is the time we begin talking to students and parents about exploring curriculum patterns for the year ahead and the processes involved for subject selection. This year, due to the current lockdown we are experiencing, all subject selection processes for 2022 curriculum patterns will still continue, however, will look a little different than they normally do. 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 commence 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. Even in this remote climate, we will ensure that all students and families have the detailed and explicit information they need to help make well-informed choices relating to curriculum patterns for the years ahead.

We have already commenced our curriculum procedures for the term, providing the opportunity for Year 11 students to inform us if they wish to commence additional HSC extension course(s) within their HSC pattern of study. It was a great opportunity to test our web based subject selection platform remotely and it was fantastic to see how smoothly the process operated.

Moving forward, we now begin the subject selection process for Years 7 into 8, Years 8 into 9 and Years 10 into 11. Listed below are the key dates and information about the subject selection procedures for each year group and how the online process will be facilitated.

Year 7 into Year 8

On Friday 13 August, all Year 7 students and their families will receive a video and Powerpoint presentation containing all of the key information about curriculum patterns students will study in Year 8, 2022, as well as the elective options available. Elective courses studied in Year 8 will give students the opportunity to further develop their knowledge and skills in a variety of subject offerings and further engage in areas of interest. We encourage families to take the time over the weekend to watch this short presentation together and discuss subject choices and preferences. Additionally, Year 7 students and families will receive an email on Monday with explicit details on how students are to log into the subject selection platform (Webchoices) and what they will be required to complete.

On Tuesday 17 August, between the times of 8:30am and 3:00pm, students will be expected to log in and make their online selection of the mandatory language they wish to study in 2022. On Wednesday 18 August, between the times of 8:30am and 3:00pm, students will be expected to log in and identify their preference of two electives that they wish to study in 2022 as well as a reserve preference.

Year 10 into Year 11

On Friday 20 August, all Year 10 students and their families will receive a video and Powerpoint presentation containing important Stage 6 curriculum information including NESA's key requirements and the subject selection process at SGGHS. In addition to the presentation, students will also receive a Year 11 - 2022 subject selection information booklet with explicit course and assessment information for all of the courses on offer at SGGHS. Details about how students will be logging their subject preferences will be sent on Monday 23 August, along with an individualised student code that will provide them personal access to the Webchoices platform.

On Friday 27 August, between the times of 8:00am and 3:30pm, students will be submitting course preferences via Edval Webchoices online. It will be up to each individual to go into Webchoices at a time that best suits them around the Compulsory Check-in timetable. Students WILL NOT be taken out of class to complete this.

Year 8 into Year 9

On Thursday 19 August, all Year 8 students and their families will receive a video and Powerpoint presentation containing important Stage 5 RoSA information as well as a Year 9 - 2022 subject selection information booklet. This booklet includes key information on all elective courses on offer at SGGHS. Details about how students will be logging their elective subject preferences will be sent on Monday 23 August, along with an individualised student code that will provide them personal access to the Webchoices platform.

On Thursday 26 August, between the times of 8:30am and 3:30pm, students will be submitting course preferences via Edval Webchoices online. It will be up to each individual to go into Webchoices at a time that best suits them around the Compulsory Check-in timetable. Students WILL NOT be taken out of class to complete this.

A key step in the subject selection process if for students to be able to discuss courses and options available to them with their teachers, Head Teachers, Year Advisors and Deputy Principal. We will be strongly encouraging students and families to continue to reach out via email for any advice or assistance required. Although we aren't able to get parents and students onsite for the usual dissemination of vital information, we all want to ensure that students still receive the necessary information required to support them in making an informed decision.

Attendance logging and daily roll call procedures

Following up from the correspondence families received last week, we want to remind parents that students are expected to commence the morning, as per normal, beginning the day with Roll Call. The attendance link will continue to be available for students from 8:30am and student attendance will need to be logged via the link in the Year Google classroom, commencing at 8:45am. Any attendance logged after 8:55am will be recorded as late to school. All lateness will be tracked by the Wellbeing team and any students displaying ongoing patterns of lateness will be required to explain these patterns. All other students who have not logged their attendance by the time the attendance period closes, will be marked as absent for the day in Sentral and an SMS notification will be sent to the parent/carer informing you of your daughter's absence. Routines and structure are so important to sustain during this remote period. As would normally be the case during a normal school day, it is important that each morning students start their day well. By doing the little things each morning such as setting an alarm, getting dressed before school starts and keeping in the routine of normal school days, it will greatly assist your daughters being in the right frame of mind for learning.

Mrs Amber Housego
Relieving Deputy Principal – Curriculum
Relieving Deputy Principal – Year 7, 9 and 11

Technological and Applied Studies (TAS)

A Smart Farmer Incursion

ess and Luke from A Smart Farmer brought their mobile dairy classroom to St George Girls High School to give Year 7 a hands-on experience with the agricultural industry. Jess introduced daily life on a farm and told the students about all the different ways they manage the farm and the quality assurance practices used on their farm in Camden. Luke demonstrated how cows are milked using technology and automation, and the students even had a chance to hand-milk the cows the old-fashioned way! The students gained an appreciation for how dairy products are made through participating in cheese and butter making. Thank you to Jess, Luke and their cows for such a memorable and engaging incursion!























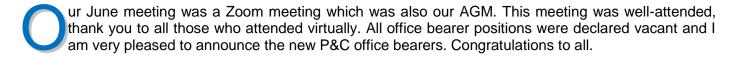








Parents and Citizens' Association



President - Sharon Khan
Vice President - Hui Hoh
Secretary - Sue Markantonakis
Treasurer - Mon Zin - with support from Warren Mak
Fundraising - Cathy Anderson

Our joint P&C meeting with Sydney Technical High School has unfortunately been postponed. Further details will be provided at a later date.

The school has unfortunately had to return to remote learning due to the Greater Sydney COVID-19 restrictions. The P&C continues to support the school during these difficult times and our thoughts are with Year 12 students studying for their upcoming assessments in challenging circumstances. The P&C committee meets every 4th Thursday of the month during school terms. Our next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 26 August 2021 and will be a virtual meeting with our school psychologist as guest speaker, an appropriate speaker for these lockdown times. A link will be sent closer to the date. Everyone is welcome to attend.

A reminder we have the 2021-2022 digital Sydney Entertainment Book for sale. You will receive instant access to the Entertainment digital Membership app that allows you to redeem great offers directly from your Iphone or Android and guaranteed to pay for itself through all the great discounts on offer. Purchase the new 12 month digital memberships at our payment page here https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/203j324

Sharon Khan
President P&C
SGGHS.pca@gmail.com

Mothers' Committee

lovely to make contact with those who were able to attend, especially as we are currently confined to our homes and not seeing many other faces. I would like to thank Ms Romeo, Ms Abson, Mrs Housego, and all of the teachers, administration and all other staff who are keeping school business running amid constant changes, disruption to plans and uncertainty. We appreciate what you are all doing.

In this month's meeting we were joined by Ms Romeo and Mrs Housego via Zoom, which was held at 10:00am, our usual Mothers' Committee meeting time. Thank you to both ladies for their presentations of the Principal's Report and the latest updates and developments in COVID measures being put in place to provide quality online learning for our children, while also safeguarding and protecting them and staff.

Ms Romeo also presented key findings of the 2021 Remote Learning Survey, and changes that will come in to effect as of Week 5 and available in the Sentral Student Parent Portal.

It was found that students across all grades expressed a desire for more online discussion and interaction with teachers. It was noted that teachers shared their sentiments expressing that they too missed their interactions with students, and as such an increase in check-in lessons will be introduced for all years.

Teachers will utilise check-in lessons to discuss with and assist students with time management and planning of their weekly learning. Ms Romeo reassured parents that there would be a reduction in overall amount of work assigned to students, with consideration given to homework, compulsory submission tasks and daily learning. Year 12 students will receive additional support with revision and feedback leading up to and following their assessment block.

At the heart of the presentation, Ms Romeo stressed the continued committed focus on student wellbeing, and the development of strategies to support connectedness between students, teachers and parents.

It was a very informative session providing an insight into the committed work teachers and staff are all putting in behind the scenes to support our daughters in achieving the best outcomes in their education, development, and wellbeing in the ever-changing environment that COVID has created.

Amongst other items discussed at the meeting were assessments. This is an unfolding situation with staff needing to focus on Year 12 assessments as a matter of urgency. Assessments for other year levels are also under consideration and different options are being discussed. If parents have particular issues or questions they would like to raise, they are welcome and encouraged to email the relevant faculty Head Teacher to discuss these. Ms Romeo assured the meeting that any changes or amendments to planned assessment tasks will be communicated to students directly. We also discussed the uniform shop, including determining discount prices for some of the current uniforms. There will be an extraordinary Zoom meeting held on Wednesday 25 August at 8pm for those interested in further discussion regarding the uniform shop.

Uniform Shop News

During this lockdown, the uniform shop remains closed until further notice. We will be providing updates on ordering as they are available. Term 3 is usually the time for Year 9 to get their senior uniforms, so we appreciate your patience.

We will also be selling the current uniform at discounted prices, presenting significant savings which will appeal to many families as the new uniform will only be available to the 2022 incoming Year 7 and Year 10 cohort.

The Uniform Shop is Closed until further notice

(Uniform Shop **Opening Hours** are usually from 1pm-3:30pm on Wednesdays)

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.

All profits from the sale of uniforms are donated back to our school.

With best wishes to you and your family,

The next monthly Mothers' Committee Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 1 September at 10am by Zoom**. Keep safe and well everyone.

Cathy Anderson

President, Mothers' Committee
0423 533 855

Nadisa Milo Vice President, Mothers' Committee 0406 424 364

St Georgians

he St Georgians send best wishes to the students, school staff and wider school community working and learning from home at present.

2021 Annual Reunion Luncheon - Saturday 23 October

This event will be subject to any COVID 19 restrictions in place at the time.

This year our Annual Reunion Luncheon will be hosted at The Sapphire Room at St George Motor Boat Club, Sans Souci.

Funds raised through raffle ticket and merchandise sales on the day and a portion of all reunion ticket sales are donated to the school to be used as needed to improve the experience of the girls of St George High School and to provide student prizes.

Remember that all ex-students and teachers are most welcome to attend. Why not organise a table with friends and family and help support the students of our school. Tickets will be on sale soon so save the date!

If you need any information about the St Georgians please don't hesitate to contact us at the email or numbers below. We have also 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** 0410 582 636

Heather Jennings **Secretary** 9501 4641