

# St George Girls High School

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Monthly Bulletin

May 2021  
Vol. 26 No. 3



## **Mother Daughter Dinner**

Saturday 22 May  
Georges River 16ft Sailing Club  
6:30pm

## **Parents & Citizens' Association Meeting**

Thursday 27 May  
Online Meeting Via Zoom  
7pm

## **Mothers' Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 2 June  
Annual General Meeting  
Library  
10am

## **Parent Teacher Evening Years 10 and 11**

Monday 7 June  
3:45pm – 5:45pm

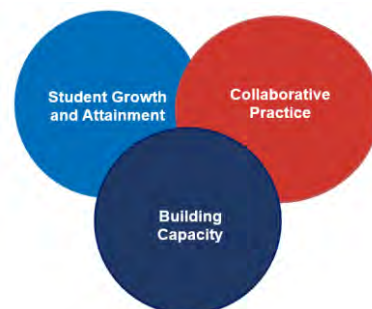
## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to Term 2 to all SGGHS staff, students and families. I hope you had a great break away from the usual school routine and have successfully launched into a new term of teaching and learning, as well as the exciting school events and activities that are planned to take place over the term.

## Official Launch of the SGGHS 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP)

At the end of last term, our Relieving Director Educational Leadership, Mrs Lauretta Claus endorsed the St George Girls High School 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) ready for its official launch at the start of Term 2. I am pleased to report that our SIP was well-received and we met all of the criteria that was set for assessment by the Department of Education (DoE). The SGGHS website has been updated to include a copy of the SGGHS 2021-2024 SIP (as required by the DoE) and all members of the school community can access a copy of the SGGHS 2021-2024 SIP via the following link:



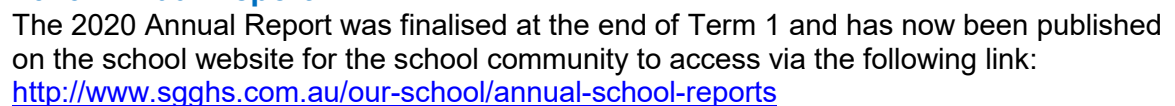
<http://www.sggghs.com.au/our-school/school-plan-2018-2020>



Strategic Improvement Plan 2021-2024

St George Girls High School 8136



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Committee meetings this term. I encourage all community members to read the Annual Report that celebrates the exceptional educational outcomes and programs delivered at our school, as well as outlining the progress made in the identified projects and priorities during the final year of implementation of the 2018-2020 School Plan.

The department's **COVID-19 guidelines** have been updated to align with the recent announcements and changes from NSW Health for the start of Term 2 2021.

- Students over the age of 12 and staff must comply with the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings\) Order 2021](#) when travelling to and from school and during school excursions by public transport or by chartered or private transport services.
- A COVID Safety Plan is only required where there is 100 or more external visitors gathering for indoor events or 200 or more external visitors for outdoor events. All attendees, including students, staff and visitors, including parents and carers, must be well and free of any flu-like symptoms.
- Singing by audiences is to be avoided. If students are performing in a choir that schools ensure there is a minimum of 5 metres between the choir and audience members.
- No restrictions on catering.
- A strong focus is to be maintained on accurate record keeping to support contact tracing in case there is an outbreak given the relaxation on other restrictions.
- No restrictions on group work or any school related activities.
- Borders are open to NZ, however, international excursions remain on hold at this stage given the potential complexities if there was a border closure at short notice.
- No capacity restriction in offices.



The most up to date and more detailed information for families is provided on the DoE website which can be accessed via the following link;

[Advice for families \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/advice-for-families)

I am excited that school operations are almost back to normal with many of the previous restrictions in place now removed. This means that the quality school activities and events that characterise our school calendar and that the staff, students and community look forward can now go ahead, which is great news.

### **SRC Induction Ceremony**

On Monday 29 March we had the opportunity to formally induct our newly elected SRC Executive and Year representatives into office. This is such a special event for our school and when it comes to leading young people, those who take on SRC leadership positions are best placed to lead their peers, as they form part of the student body. The 2021 SRC Executive and Year Representatives will certainly provide a creative and positive approach towards the planning of all activities they have scheduled for this year. I also know that the staff and whole student body will support our newly appointed SRC representatives in their roles over the year and get behind the initiatives and activities that they have planned to enrich school life. Congratulations again to all of our elected SRC Executive and SRC Year Representatives and I look forward to working together to make this the best year ever at St George Girls High School.



### **Year 7 Camp**

Year 7 enjoyed the opportunity to cement their new friendship connections and transition into high school during the Year 7 Camp held at a new venue this year, CRU Galston Gorge from Wednesday 10 March – Friday 12 March. The organisation for this year's camp presented a whole new range of challenges to overcome and I am so grateful for the team effort behind the scenes to ensure that the 2021 Year 7 Camp experience was a positive one for our students, as we continue to support their important transition into high school.





I would like to acknowledge the work of Year 7 Year Advisor Miss Chapman and Assistant Advisor Miss Notkina, who both invested a significant amount of their time organising the ever-changing requirements for the camp. Thank you also to the team of staff who volunteered to support this activity by attending the camp over the three days; Ms Abson, Mrs Jospe, Miss Chapman, Miss Notkina, Miss Papas, Ms Gerrish, Ms Treacy, Miss Bullivant, Mrs Macready and Mr Bayer. Without the good will of the staff volunteering their own time, events such as these camps are not possible and I am grateful for this continued support.



### Year 11 Camp

The Year 11 Camp was held at Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation at Narrabeen on Wednesday 24 March – Friday 26 March. All of the camp programs organised at St George are highly valued annual wellbeing initiatives, that are designed to give the students the opportunity to develop friendships, develop team building skills, take risks, and to challenge themselves physically and mentally in a safe environment.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Year 11 Year Advisor Miss Neave and Assistant Advisor Mr Neil Walters, who have both invested a significant amount of their time making the necessary arrangements for the camp. Thank you also to the team of staff who have volunteered to support this activity by attending the camp over the three days:

Mrs Housego, Mr Nouis, Miss Neave, Mr Walters, Ms Whitehead, Miss Bullivant, Mr Charlupski, Mrs Hinton, Mr Invernon, Ms McAlpine (Wednesday Night) and Mr Cowper (Thursday).

I know that our school community, in particular our students are very grateful to have such a team of dedicated and supportive teachers who volunteer their own time to ensure such opportunities can take place. I am also glad that our wellbeing camps have been uninterrupted this year and we have been able to proceed with these great initiatives for our students.





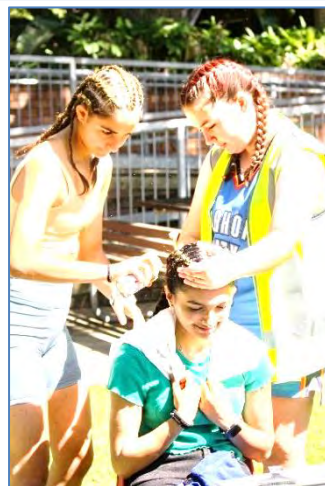
## Walkathon

On Wednesday 31 March the SGGHS Walkathon was held. This is always a very special and unique day for our school as the staff and students always have a great day together. The organisation for this year's Walkathon was slightly different to accommodate the DoE COVID-19 guidelines for whole school activities. The students participated in a supervised walk, however the activities that were usually undertaken at Peter Depena Reserve, were run at the school.



This highly anticipated school event highlights the real sense of school spirit that exists at SGGHS. Such events are only possible because of the quality students we have at the school and this event showcases the very best of St George. A big thank you must go to our Walkathon organiser, Mr Moncrieff and the Year 12 Cohort Team – Deputy Principal in Charge of Year 12, Ms Abson, Year 12 Advisor Mrs Jospe and Assistant Advisor Ms Torrisi for their support in managing the activities back at school.

Thank you to our Year 12 students who successfully embraced the responsibility for providing enough food and activity options to keep everyone engaged and well fed over the afternoon and for their help cleaning up so diligently at the conclusion of the day. The students also needed to make a number of modifications to their planned stalls to ensure that they comply with the COVID-19 regulations in place, adding further logistical considerations to be managed.





## Anzac Day Assembly

Anzac Day marks the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. Like hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens, who gather at memorials in cities, suburbs and towns across Australia, we as a school hosted our Anzac Day assembly on Wednesday 21 April to commemorate one of the most significant events in our national calendar.

It is now a long-standing tradition that on ANZAC Day we all pause to remember those that offered up their life in the defence of their nation and community, which is the greatest contribution any citizen can make. This tradition is as relevant today as it was when our troops landed on the beaches of Gallipoli in 1915. We only have to recall those Australians that have died or been injured in recent years on operations overseas and within Australia to protect Australia and its national interests.

I would like to thank the History faculty in particular Mr Boland for organising this special assembly and the CAPA faculty, in particular Miss Chapman and Miss Hamilton for coordinating the musical items for the ceremony. Each year the Enviro Council also places rosemary from the school garden on the assembly seats for all students and staff to wear as a symbol of commemoration on the day.



## Metro Renewal Grant Application Outcome

At the end of March, I was advised by School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) that SGGHS was successful in our Metro Renewal Program application to secure funding for a Sports/Tennis Court upgrade. This project will be financed by a co-contribution between SGGHS School and community funds and SINSW to the value of \$300,000.

Projects will be delivered between now and June 2022 and the Asset Management Unit (AMU) will be responsible for managing the planning and delivery of this project. This term I am expecting to meet with our local Asset Services Officer (ASO) to discuss the scope, timing and budget of this exciting project for our school.

This project will continue the quality work we are undertaking across the school of refurbish and enhance the site facilities available for our students and staff and I know that the new outdoor sports/tennis court will provide a much needed outdoor learning space that all students will have the opportunity to benefit from in the years to come. This construction will create significant disruption to our school routines, yet I will continue to be proactive in my communication with parents/carers and students throughout this process and as soon as I have a better idea about when this project will commence, I will let the community know.

## External Validation



Each year, a group of schools are selected to participate in an external validation process. This provides an opportunity for schools to discuss their judgements about their practice in reference to the School Excellence Framework (SEF) domains (Teaching, Learning and Leading) and elements as well as discuss the evidence collated that underpins them with a panel of peers.

**Section 1.11 of the School Excellence Policy** specifies that once during the four-year School Excellence cycle, each school will undertake an external validation of evidence of their school self-assessment. Our school was last validated in 2016 and this term we have been advised that we will undertake the external validation process again.

## EXTERNAL VALIDATION GUIDELINES

Implementation document for School Excellence Policy

Policy document number: PD-2016-0468-05-V1.0.0

Implementation date: 3 February 2021

Applicable from: February 2021

Contact: Director, Principals, School Leadership and External Validation (PSL&EV)

Phone: 02 7814 3853

Email: validation@det.nsw.edu.au

The school's Senior Executive Leadership team will engage in discussions with an external panel and have their self-assessments validated using the **School Excellence Framework**. A panel report will be provided to the school following External Validation.

External Validation for SGGHS will take place on Wednesday 2 June 2021 (Term 2 Week 7). The senior executive leadership team is now busily preparing our external validation submission which must be completed two weeks prior to the panel meeting (Term 2 Week 5).

I look forward to sharing some of evidence sets that we have compiled for this process with the school community later this term as well as reporting back on the outcomes from this process and the recommendations made in the external validation panel report once this is received.



## Athletics Carnival

The school Athletics Carnival was held on Thursday 29 April at Sylvania Waters Athletics Track. This is always such a well-supported whole school event and I would like to thank the students for the exceptional level of participation they displayed on the day. I would like to thank the PDHPE faculty and our carnival organiser Miss Papas in particular, for making all of the necessary arrangements to ensure that our Athletics Carnival was again a successful and enjoyable day. I have a few highlights from the day to mention.



- Congratulations to Catherine Weng in Year 12 on winning the school 100m Champion of Champions Event.
- Congratulations to Mirrabooka for winning the Junior House Relay Team race
- Congratulations to Allunga for winning the Senior House Relay Team race
- Mitamit was the winning House on a very respectable 592 points. Mirrabooka was in second place on 514 points, Larool was in third place on 386 points and Allunga finished off in fourth place on 353 points.

Congratulations to the following Age Champions for 2021:

### 12 Years

Age Champion: Lorna Yu

Runner up: Maahika Srinivas

### 13 Years

Age Champion: Sarah Lin

Runner Up: Fiona Su

### 14 Years

Age Champion: Elizabeth Suto

Runner Up: Jennifer Luong



### 15 Years

Age Champion: Ninus Zhang

Runner Up: Nicole Chen

### 16 Years

Age Champion: Bonnie Li

Runner Up: Marie Sikiotis

### 17+ Years

Age Champion: Jacinta Low

Runner Up: Catherine Weng





## Great Barrier Reef Ecology Excursion

On Saturday 24 April – Tuesday 27 April, 16 of our Year 12 students and Mr Walters joined together with staff and students from Fort Street High School to participate in the Great Barrier Reef Geography Ecology Excursion. The itinerary for the 4 days was both enriching and educational for the students and I know they had a wonderful time, enjoying the experiences they had the opportunity to engage with. It is so refreshing to be able to celebrate and provide such unique opportunities for our learners again, and I thank Mr Walters for his determination and commitment to get this excursion off the ground and for making all of the necessary arrangements at both a school and DoE level to obtain final approval.



## Winter Uniform Change Over and New Uniform Update

As the cooler weather has now arrived, I wanted to remind our community that we have officially commenced the wearing of the winter uniform from Monday 3 May (Term 2 Week 3). The school uniform is a vital element that unifies our students. Overall the standard is very high, however I would like to see this maintained particularly throughout the cooler months.

As we will commence the transition to the new SGGHS Uniform from 2022 for Years 7 and 10, I am aware that the Uniform Shop is working to sell existing stock as it prepares for receiving the delivery of the new uniform items to sell to the community in preparation for 2022 transition period. As a result, the availability of some items are now running low. I have been advised the stock availability of the winter tunic is quite low and as this item will be replaced in the new uniform change over, it is unlikely that additional stock will be purchased. The school is allowing students to wear the summer tunic with the long sleeve shirt and school tie if parents/carers are unable to purchase a new tunic in the correct size.

In the changeover for our Year 10 students the uniform shop will be selling the existing senior skirts first, as there is not too much variation between the existing skirt and the new design. The existing stock of blazers will also be sold first before an order is placed for new blazers.

I have advised the Uniform Shop that enough stock must be available to ensure that all students commencing SGGHS in Year 7 2022 are in the new uniform. For our Year 10 students in 2022 they will move into the new shirts and new red jumper and/or cardigan. The new sports uniform will also be available for purchase for students in Year 10, however I also understand that families may choose to hold off purchasing this item if their daughter's existing sport uniform is in good condition.

As is the case with any uniform change over, the wearing of correct uniform will be a little inconsistent until all existing stock is depleted and all Year groups move through the transition. If families would like to purchase any of the options available from the new uniform for their children in particular the new cardigan, jumper, sports uniform or tunics they are welcome to.

One aspect of the new uniform that **WILL BE COMPULSORY FOR ALL STUDENTS FROM 2022** is the wearing of the SGGHS socks stocked by the Uniform Shop. I have been advised that enough stock has been acquired to ensure that all families can purchase the SGGHS uniform socks that will be worn with all uniform options and on sport days.





From 2022 ALL students at SGGHS in Years 7-12 will be expected to wear the new uniform socks available for purchase from the Uniform Shop.



## Student Achievements

I am always thrilled to hear about the individual or group achievements of our students. I welcome all parents and students to email me any achievements that I will proudly celebrate in each Month's Gazette correspondence. This month I wanted to congratulate the following students on their outstanding achievements;

- Mandy Yang in Year 11 was successful in gaining a scholarship to undertake the XAS101 a Practical Introduction to Temperate Marine Biology with the University of Tasmania (UTAS) under the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) with the Marine Ecologist and lecturer Dr Scott Ling and other marine experts in their field.

Mandy reported that "this has been an incredible experience that has further instigated my love and knowledge of the marine environment". This opportunity took place during the April holidays, where Mandy spent a week in Hobart with 23 other aspiring marine biologists from all around Australia to sample and collect scientific data on Maria Island off the coast of Eastern Tasmania.

This is truly a unique opportunity and I would like to congratulate Mandy on being the successful recipient of one of only 9 Scholarships available. Please read Mandy's report that features in this month's Gazette.



- Irena Liu and Anna Cheng in Year 11 participated in an event hosted by Generation Entrepreneur called Initiate 48 in the April holidays, where over a period of 48 hours, attendees learn from industry experts and business leaders about the tips and tricks to running a successful start-up. The students along with 4 other high school students successfully pitched an idea in front of professional industry judges and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 10 teams. Generation Entrepreneur is a non-for-profit organisation that aims to instil an entrepreneurial spirit within the future generation of young Australians. They deliver entrepreneurial programs in partnership with industry and schools across NSW, empowering students to become social entrepreneurs. This is a great opportunity and it always great to see our students represented in such exciting and worthwhile opportunities.
- Evie Winrow in Year 7 has been successful in gaining a place for the NSW Public Schools Vocal Ensemble in 2021.
- Congratulations to our dancers who have had their item titled "As One", choreographed by Jodie Hoh in Year 12, selected for the 2021 "In the Spotlight" Ultimo Dance Festival. The students will perform on Friday 11 June and we wish them all the very best for their upcoming performance.
- On Sunday 2 May our P&C hosted a fundraising Bunnings BBQ. I would like to thank two of our new parents to the school Mrs Liu and Mrs Mak for their assistance throughout the day.





## 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:

Ruby Easton of Year 10.

Lucy Anderson of Year 11.

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

Joy Cheng, Anastasia Elgawly (2), Zoe Lee, Sharani Skandarooban and Maahika Srinivas of Year 7.

Riya Amin, Ashwini Bineesh, Ashley Chen, Christine Choi, Anvita Dhulipalla, Josephine Elgawly, Yolanda Ho, Aleksia Ilic, Gloria Kim, Emma Langley, Molly Maguire-Ward, Monique Motto, Rachel Shen, Elizabeth Suto, Riya Suvana, Katherine Thong, Katelyn Tu, Chloe Yan, Emily Yung and Nabeeha Zobayer of Year 8.

Dana Arenas Valentin, Carrie Chen (5), Angelika Gandarasa, Cynthia Lam, Edwina Li (2), Azkiya Umam, Chloe Xiong (2), Jennifer Zhao (4) and Olivia Zou of Year 9.

Shelly Chen, Ruby Easton, Houda Hamadi (2), Nazihah Ibnat, Aazeen Khan, Dina Kim, Kriti Kumar, Natasha Metlege, Esther Park, Ananya Sharma, Hayee Wong (4) and Christy Wu (2) of Year 10.

Lucy Anderson (3), Anna Cheng, Jenny Lee, Irena Liu, Mary Murray and Monica Zhou (3) of Year 11.

I wish you all a great term and I look forward to seeing many parents at the P&C meeting later this month on Thursday 27 May at 7:00pm hosted via Zoom as well at the various events and activities that will take place this term. In particular can I remind all parents that the Mothers' Committee will host the Mother Daughter Dinner on Saturday 22 May at Georges River 16ft Sailing Club from 6:30pm. This is a great tradition for our school and I am glad this event will take place this year. If you have yet to purchase your tickets, please do so via the following link <https://trybooking.com/BQEYG>

As always, if you have any questions or queries about any school matters you are very welcome to contact me at school at any time.

Ms Betty Romeo  
**Principal**



## Deputy Principal's Report – Teaching and Learning

### Winter Uniform

The students are now in winter uniform and looking very smart. 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. 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 they must collect a uniform infringement from the kiosk BEFORE period 1 if they are not in the correct uniform. If they have a note from a parent this should be signed by the Deputy Principal in the morning and a uniform pass will be issued.

### SGGHS Professional Learning Update

#### Term 2 School Development Day (SDD)

With the official launch of the Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) at the start of Term 2, our recent School Development Day focused on the following three sessions:

##### Session 1: High Potential and Gifted Education Policy

To support the implementation of the new DoE policy, staff engaged in a workshop that focused on three key areas: how and why a new policy was developed; guiding principles of the policy; unpacking the meaning of high potential, gifted and highly gifted. Staff viewed short videos linked to the policy then engaged in targeted discussion questions with colleagues.



##### Session 2: 2021 HSC Implementation Plan

During this session, all faculties reviewed the 2020 HSC analysis completed at the start of the year and developed a Faculty Improvement Plan (FIP). This plan allowed staff to break down the analysis and outline how they will address the data and evaluate their identified areas for improvement over the next three terms.

##### Session 3: High Expectations

High expectations is one quality teaching practice that known to support school improvement and enhance the learning outcomes of students. All staff completed the online learning module from CESE - What Works Best: High Expectations. Staff engaged with the research and completed reflection tasks on their understanding of the importance of establishing high expectations in the classroom and what their current practice is in promoting high expectations for students.

Since the March Gazette, staff at SGGHS have engaged in many professional learning opportunities linked both to curriculum and key focus areas of the new Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP).



### Staff SIP Meeting Follow-Up

In our SIP meeting in Week 3, staff had the opportunity to work across faculties and share their reflection responses from the SDD High Expectations online module task. Staff shared their thoughts and highlighted common practice among staff and ideas to further develop to promote a consistent approach to establishing a high expectations learning environment and procedures within the school. Staff also looked at the feedback from students that was collated from the SIP forums held at the end of Term 2. A team will now be established to work with the school community over the next three terms in this focus area of the SIP.



### SIP Professional Learning

- Unlocking Formative Assessment
- Differentiating Teaching and Learning in Schools
- Critical and Creative Thinking in Practice
- Preparing for External Validation

### Curriculum Professional Learning

- Meet The Markers – Chemistry, Biology, Physics
- PDPHE HSC Marking Simulation Course
- Conferences: Stage 6 History, ELC Commerce and Business Studies
- Bigger Better Brains Educator Course for Music
- Workshops related to Digital Technologies, Mathematics
- Syllabus Programming: Languages, PDHPE and English
- Network Meetings – St George Principals' Network, Kogarah Cluster Senior Executive Leadership, Selective Schools Science and Languages Meetings

## Recent Year 10 and 12 Study Skills Workshops

On Wednesday 5 May Dr Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services ([www.enhanced-learning.net](http://www.enhanced-learning.net)) ran a study skills session with Year 10 and Year 12. The sessions focused on helping students identify changes and improvements they could make to their approach to their studies in order to maximise their results in their final years of school.

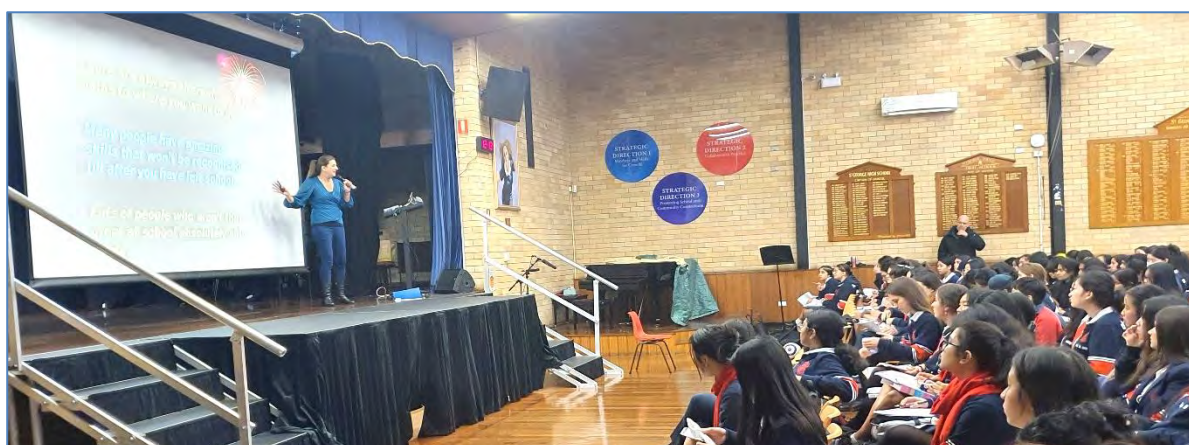
The main areas covered in the Year 10 session '*Achieving Your Personal Best*' were:

- setting up an effective study space at home for their upcoming exams
- managing resources for study (both paper and digital)
- working effectively in the evenings and dealing with distractions
- making brain-friendly study notes on a regular basis
- using a wide variety of active study techniques to suit individual learning styles.



The Year 12 session '*Maximising Your Results*' looked at building on the work done with the girls in previous sessions. Year 12 looked at:

- advanced research about the brain and how that could be used to make their study more effective
- steps to make effective study notes, the study techniques they traditionally used and exploring new techniques they could try this year that best suited their learning preferences
- how much time they should allocate to schoolwork during term time (2-3 hours per night)
- the type of independent learning they should consistently be doing throughout the year.



Parents are encouraged to review the handout from the session with their daughter and discuss the main areas they identified where changes need to be made. Parents can also find extra study skills tips on the following website: <http://studyskillstoptipsparents.com/>

All secondary students and parents at our school have access to the study skills website to help students develop their skills. Go to [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) and enter the username: **stgeorgeghs** and the password: **47achieve**. There are lots of useful handouts on the THINGS TO PRINT page on this site and students can work through the units where they need additional help.



## Parenting Ideas – ‘Insight’ Article

### Establishing digital boundaries for the screen generation

Setting firm digital boundaries helps the screen generation to cultivate healthy behaviours and flourish in the digital world. Looking beyond 'screen time' will help students develop savvy, safe digital behaviours.

### Study Skills Tip for May – Set Times for Home Learning

This month's study skills tip is '**Set Time for Home Learning**'. Many students come home from school and end up just waiting until they might 'feel' like doing schoolwork. This article provides information on how to set times for learning and what the benefits can be.

### Coming Soon – Years 7/8 Parent/Student Study Skills Evening

This year, the combined study skills evening with Sydney Technical High School will be conducted online as a live webinar, interactive session. All Year 7 and 8 parents/carers will be emailed the information flyer about this very valuable evening by the end of Week 5. Until then, please see the attached 'Save the Date' flyer with some general information about the session.

**When: Monday 24 May 2021**

**Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm**

**Online: Live Webinar**

**Materials: Emailed to parents/carers prior to the session**

#### Upcoming Cohort Activities/Events

Upcoming key events and activities across the year groups include:

**May 17** – Year 12 Personal Best Interviews

**May 24** – Year 11 Personal Best Interviews

**May 24** – Year 10 High Resolves

**May 26-28** – Year 9 Camp

**June 3** – Year 12 HSC and Careers Expo

Ms Pamela Abson

**Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning**

**Deputy Principal – Year 8, 10 and 12**



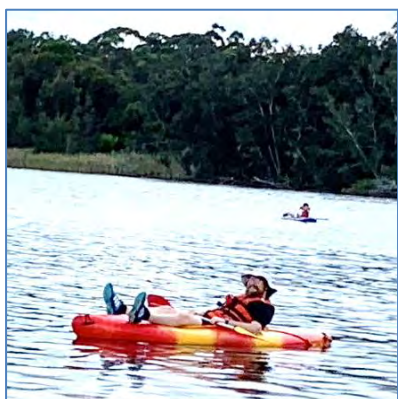
## Deputy Principal's Report – Curriculum

### Year 11 Camp

In Term 1, Year 11 attended the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation for their Year 11 camp. The weather was perfect and the student's engagement in the activities and the comradery that was shown over the three days was outstanding. The students participated in kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, bush walking, archery and raft building, with great success across all activities. The highlight of the trip was definitely the Trivia night organised by the students. There were fantastic team costumes, challenging Trivia questions and although the teacher's team unfortunately did not come away as the winning team, fun was certainly had by all. I must commend the students on their fabulous behaviour throughout the three days. On numerous occasions, various group leaders commented to our staff about how much they enjoyed the sessions with our students and that the students always gave 100% in all they did. A big thank you to the



staff who took time away from their classes and families to ensure our students could enjoy this fantastic opportunity. An even bigger thank you must go to the Year 11 Year Advisor, Ms Alex Neave and Assistant Year Advisor, Mr Neil Walters for all of the many hours of organisation they put in to ensure the camp was a big success.





## Year 8 Check-In Assessment

In Week 1 of this term, our Year 8 students completed the DoE Check-In assessment. Across the board, our students performed exceptionally well and we were very impressed with their engagement throughout the tests. From here, the information that the school has received from the assessment will now help with Literacy and Numeracy planning for the year ahead. Our Learning and Support Team will be using data from this assessment to create differentiated learning activities and work with individual students to support them in their progress this year. In addition to the data we have collated, we will continue observing all of the students and how they are performing in literacy and numeracy, making adjustments to teaching and learning programs as we move towards NAPLAN testing in 2022.

## Upcoming NAPLAN Tests

NAPLAN tests for all students in Years 7 and 9 commence at our school on Wednesday 12 May. Students from both year groups will be sitting all four tests each with varying durations. Outlined below is our school schedule:

	<b>Wednesday 12 May – Writing (45 minute test)</b>		
<b>Period 1/2</b>	7 Green	7 Orange	7 Yellow
<b>Period 3/R*</b>	9 Red	9 Yellow	9 Blue
<b>Period 5/6</b>	7 Red	7 Blue	
<b>Period 7/8</b>	9 Orange	9 Green	9 Dis Provs

	<b>Friday 14 May – Reading (65 minute test)</b>		
<b>Period 1/2</b>	9 Orange	9 Green	9 Dis Provs
<b>Period 3/R*</b>	7 Orange	7 Red	
<b>Period 5/6</b>	7 Yellow	7 Green	7 Blue
<b>Period 7/8</b>	9 Red	9 Yellow	9 Blue

	<b>Tuesday 18 May – Conventions of Language (45 minute test)</b>		
<b>Period 1/2</b>	7 Green	7 Blue	7 Yellow
<b>Period 3/R*</b>	9 Orange	9 Green	9 Dis Provs
<b>Period 5/6</b>	7 Orange	7 Red	
<b>Period 7/8</b>	9 Red	9 Yellow	9 Blue

	<b>Thursday 20 May – Numeracy (65 minute test)</b>		
<b>Period 2/3</b>	9 Red	9 Yellow	9 Blue
<b>Period 4/5</b>	9 Orange	9 Green	9 Dis Provs
<b>Period 6/Lunch 1*</b>	7 Orange	7 Blue	
<b>Period 7/8</b>	7 Green	7 Red	7 Yellow

On identified testing days, during the periods when the students are not participating in a NAPLAN test, classes will run as per the usual timetable and students will continue with their current coursework. In addition, a friendly reminder to parents and carers, where possible, please avoid booking any medical appointments throughout school time on the testing days.

Mrs Amber Housego

**Relieving Deputy Principal – Curriculum**

**Relieving Deputy Principal – Year 7, 9 and 11**

## Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

### Hello from the CAPA Faculty

**T**erm 2 is a very exciting term for CAPA and our Drama, Music and Visual Arts students are all working creatively in class. Drama and Music students are busy collaborating on some great performances for their upcoming showcase nights and our Visual Arts Students are also working towards the annual art exhibition that takes place in Term 3. All our HSC students are developing and refining their major works and performances.

The CAPA showcase nights are always a highlight of the school year and provide our students with the important opportunity to perform for an audience and consolidate the learning that is taking place in the classroom. Not having been able to showcase the wonderful talents of the CAPA students in 2020 makes these 2021 events even more special. Of course, these events will adhere to current DoE COVID safe guidelines and we look forward to seeing parents and friends in attendance supporting the students. Please stay tuned for upcoming invitations and information regarding these showcase nights.

In Week 2, all Year 7 Visual Arts students enjoyed an excursion to Taronga Zoo as part of their Animals in Art studies. The day was not only a wonderful educational experience for Year 7 but also lots of fun! Year 8 Visual Arts students will also visit the Sydney Aquarium this term.

At the beginning of the term Mr Batten took part in some great NESAs professional learning on the Visual Arts HSC course. The focus was on Integration of the Artmaking and Critical & Historical Studies components in Stage 6 Visual Arts, and using high leverage strategies for moving students from one band (e.g. high Band 5) into another (e.g. Band 6).

Ms Hamilton and Ms Chapman have also attended innovative professional development this year. The 'Bigger Better Brains' workshop looks at the impact of music learning on brain development and the important role that Music and The Arts play in developing the brain and engaging visual, auditory and motor functions, with an emphasis on improving literacy and numeracy. We look forward to sharing this information with the wider school community in the near future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful CAPA staff, Mr Andrew Batten, Ms Ashley Hamilton, Ms Emily Chapman, Ms Liz Clark, Mr Jon Suffolk and Ms Sarah Milgate for always going the extra mile for their students. I am always in awe of their commitment and absolute dedication to empowering our CAPA students to maximise their talents and realise their potential.

We look forward to seeing parents and friends at our upcoming showcase evenings!

### Showcase Evenings

**Drama Showcase Evening – Wednesday 16 June at 6:30pm**

**Gala Music Evening – Friday 18 June at 6:30pm**

Ms Lisa Wright  
**Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts**



## Creative and Performing Arts

Year 10 Drama Rehearsals



Some Year 9 Drama students working on their group performance



Year 11 Drama Rehearsals

Year 11 and 12 Drama Workshop



Year 8 Drama Rehearsals





## Creative and Performing Arts



Year 8 Music



Year 8 Still Life Drawings





## Green Corner



### Fact of the Month:

**A**luminum can be recycled forever! Unlike paper which has a limit as to the times, it can be recycled, aluminum can be recycled forever. Recycling a can made of aluminum produces energy enough to run a television for three hours.

### Compost Tumbler

Starting this year, the Gardening team (together with the worm farm team) began using a compost tumbler to reduce even more natural wastes (weeds, food scraps, grass clippings).

A tumbler is a large cylindrical container in which a variety of natural wastes can be dumped and by turning the container several times, the wastes become useful compost that can enrich your garden. It is a fun and easy way of reducing wastes and partaking in saving the environment. They come in a variety of sizes, making them good for houses with large gardens and small apartments.



Our school compost tumbler is placed behind the large green water tank in the hockey field, near the garden patches.

If you want to try it yourself, you can get compost bins at your local Bunnings, Flower Power or any garden supplies stores.

This website [www.compostrevolution.com.au](http://www.compostrevolution.com.au) has lots of composting products at special discounts depending on the area you live in and tutorials to get people started.

**Watch this space for more information of the many exciting events the enviro council have planned for you this year!**

Jashan Singh Year 11  
Enviro Executive Council  
Enviro Journalist

## XAS101 – A Practical Introduction to Temperate Marine Biology – Maria Island Tasmania

**U**ndertaking the **XAS101 A Practical Introduction to Temperate Marine Biology** with the University of Tasmania (UTAS) under the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) with the inspiring marine ecologist and lecturer Dr Scott Ling and other marine experts in their field has been an incredible experience that has further instigated my love and knowledge of the marine environment.

From 12 –18 April, I spent a week in Hobart with 23 other aspiring marine biologists from all around Australia to sample and collect scientific data on Maria Island off the coast of Eastern Tasmania. Our 2 days in UTAS and 5 days on Maria Island consisted of: fish transect surveys, an in-water snorkelling lecture, zooplankton sampling using a NIPR-I net, infauna sediment sampling using a Van Veen grab off a jetty and on a boat, identification of marine organisms under microscopes, quadrat sampling along transect lines, seaweed sampling along a shoreline, five captivating lectures, quizzes, working on field journals and finally a group presentation at IMAS Salamanca. We were able to directly observe the impact of climate change on the East Coast of Australia on marine ecosystems and were galvanised to fight for the future of the Great Southern Reef.



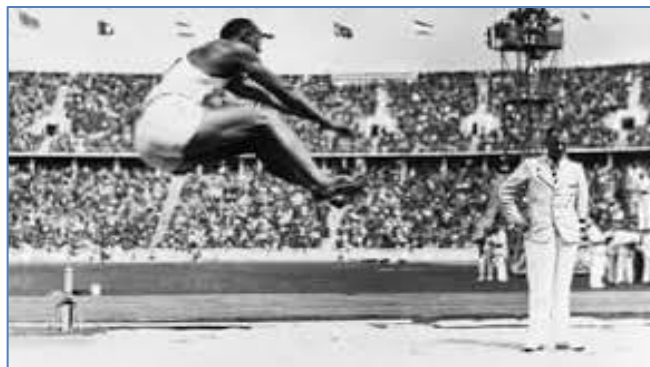
Growing up watching Barney's Barrier Reef and going to the beach almost every weekend, including various snorkelling trips around Australia combined with my love and respect for the environment motivated me to apply for this unit. I am stoked to be selected for this trip on one of the nine scholarships available. I will forever be grateful for the lifelong friends I have made during this trip. I hope to contribute to the intriguing field of marine biology into the future :)

Mandy Yang  
**Year 12**



## History Happenings

*On this day: 5 May, African American athlete Jesse Owens sets the long jump record in Nazi Germany's Berlin Olympics, making a mockery of concepts of 'social Darwinism'.*



**T**he History faculty welcomes back all students to 2021, as we look forward to an exciting year ahead. I would like to start by paying tribute to a very special person, a teacher in our faculty who has inspired countless St Georgians. On the school's Term 1 School Development Day, our Director Educational Leadership, Mr Craig Smith paid tribute to the most committed and selfless teacher that I have had the privilege to work with, Ms Louise Bullivant. She was recognised with a Principal Network Award for Excellence and Contribution to Teaching. Ms Bullivant has made a difference to each and every student that has graced her classroom. In 2015, one of her students, Caitlin Semsarian achieved first place in the state in Modern History. More importantly, every student that has been in one of her History or English classes has developed a greater appreciation of the world around them, they have become more aware and civic minded young women ready to take on the world. Outside the classroom, she continues to demonstrate her commitment to St George, organising the Year 12 Graduation Day, the school's SRE program, Peer Support Mentor and a regular at Wellbeing camps. We all take this opportunity to say, thank you.

Year 11 Modern History students were able to take advantage of an easing in COVID-19 restrictions to make the trek to a beautiful part of Sydney, the Quarantine Station at North Head in Manly. It was a great opportunity to appreciate continuity and change in History, with students taking a tour of the site which was home to dealing with the 1919 Spanish flu epidemic, amongst other attempts to protect public health. It also served as an important reminder of how far we have come in racial and social equality.



April is an important time of year. Historically, we take time to reflect on the sacrifice made and which continues to be made by young Australians for the freedom that we enjoy. Enormous thanks go to Mr Boland for organising the school's ANZAC ceremony, the first time we have been able to assemble as a school since COVID. He was aided by the wonderful Ms Chapman and Mr Moroney, an amazing group of Year 10 History students and performances of the Last Post and the Reveille by Grace Walsh and Mariam Abbas.



Finally, Year 10 History students look forward to Wednesday, 26 May when they will go to the Sydney Jewish Museum for a very special day. They will have the rare opportunity to listen and speak with a Holocaust survivor. These people are a true inspiration to us all and a reminder of the worst aspects of humanity but also the best. A regular speaker and survivor, Mr Eddie Jaku, has recently turned 100 and released an amazing book called 'The Happiest Man on Earth.' Here are some observations that Eddie has made in his incredible life, sentiments that we can all appreciate and reflect on:



'If you have the opportunity today, please go and tell your mother that you love her.'

'Education is a lifesaver.'

'Happiness is the only thing in the world that doubles when you share it.'

'A field is empty, but if you put in the effort to grow something then you will have a garden. And that's life. Give something, something will come back. Give nothing, nothing will come back.'

## Student Wellbeing

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

Ashwini Bineesh (2), Kate Rai (2), Rachel Shen and Riya Suvarna of Year 8.

Mavis Hong (2), Abeeha Siddiqui and Isabella Zhu of Year 9.

Lucy Anderson (2), Chanisa Jennings (2), Jenny Lee (3), Aneesa Sukkarieh (4) and Monica Zhou of Year 11.

Katerina Kalogerakis (6) of Year 12.

The following students have been presented with Super Dragon Badges:

Lucy Anderson (2) of Year 11.

Katerina Kalogerakis of Year 12.

## Finance News

### Finance Office Hours: 8:30am – 1:50pm

Please be advised that the Finance Office closes at 1:50pm every day and we are unable to take any payments or telephone calls after this time. Students are requested to make payments before school, at recess or at lunch. Parents may make payments anytime between 8:30am – 1:50pm



### Touch Football Round 2 Report

**S**t George Girls High School competed against Cronulla High this week in the second round of the Sydney East Touch Football Knockout. It started as an even contest, with both schools going set for set and creating plenty of scoring opportunities. Both sides displayed impressive defensive efforts from the get go. Cronulla High managed to break the lock by scoring a try late in the first half with the half finishing 1-0.

St George came out strong in the second half creating some dangerous chances and putting Cronulla on the back foot. Unfortunately, some bad luck for St George as we had two important players go down with injuries that stopped them from entering back into the game. Cronulla managed to get on top of the game with the final score ending at 4-0.



### Under 15's Netball Knockout – Sydney East

After winning the qualifying game with the score of 81-2, the under 15's netball team qualified to participate in the Sydney East Knockout Netball gala day on 26 April at Bellingara netball courts. After competing in three games, it came down to for and against goals to break a tie to determine who would continue onto the semi finals. By a margin of 2 goals, the team was able to play one more game together before being defeated by Kirrawee High School. This was the first time St George Girls made it that far in a number of years. There was great spirit shown by all and the team is proud of their efforts.





## Social Sciences

### Great Barrier Reef Geography Ecology Tour

**O**n the morning Friday 23 April, 16 students from St George Girls, 15 students from Fort Street High School and 3 teachers gathered at Sydney Airport to start the 5 days and 4 nights trip to Cairns, Queensland.

This excursion allowed students to gain a first-hand experience of the Great Barrier Reef, human impacts, and management strategies. It also allowed the students to interact with marine biologists and traditional owners to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the issues and proposed solutions associated with the Great Barrier Reef.



The Year 12 Geography course also requires students to study tourism as part of the topic, People and Economic Activity. Gaining an understanding of the impact of tourism on Cairns, modified by the influence of COVID-19, was invaluable for this part of the course.

It was fantastic to emerge post COVID-19 and be able to go on an excursion such as this. The airport and airline required masks to be worn at all times which was a minor inconvenience compared with the opportunity to fly again.



On the afternoon of day one we visited James Cook University, with an opportunity to observe some of the venomous marine creatures being studied at the university. This included stone fish, cone shellfish as well as the Irukandji and box jellyfish. We also had an opportunity to hear a very engaging presentation from Professor Jamie Seymour, a world-renowned toxicologist and founder of the Tropical Australian Venom Research Unit.

On day two we got to visit Fitzroy Island, one of the inner reef locations accessible by a 45-minute boat trip out of Cairns. There, we were able to visit the Turtle Rehabilitation Centre and have our first two snorkels on the reef. Included is a photo of the girls with the lovely stinger suits to protect from jellyfish.





On day three, we were able to experience the other world heritage area of North Queensland, the Daintree Rainforest, where we had a trip on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway from the base to Kuranda Terminal with stops within the Rainforest at Red Peak and Barron Falls. The rainforest was certainly living up to its name as we had been experiencing a lot of rain leading up to and during the trip, however, it did make the amount of water falling through Barron Falls truly spectacular.



There was a good opportunity to walk around Kuranda Village, buy some souvenirs and also talk to some of the business owners about the impact of COVID-19 as this area was one of the most directly affected by the lack of international visitors.



On day four, we had the highlight of the trip, the tour to the outer reef on the Passions of Paradise boat.

The students got to experience the outer reef situation at Hastings Reef over two snorkels, accompanied by marine biologists. The students also completed the eye on the reef survey; examining reef conditions and marine fauna. This data was uploaded and incorporated into the monitoring and assessment program run by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.



On day five, the students had time to have a fun 2-hour urban challenge, where, in small groups, they had to obtain the answers from some cryptic clues about Cairns. We then boarded the Qantas flight back to Sydney.



I would like to take the opportunity to thank the parents for permitting the girls to go on this excursion given the risks associated with COVID-19 leading up to the trip. I would also like to thank Ms Romeo and Mr Bowen for their assistance in organising and preparing for the trip and also the teachers, Rod and Louise, who accompanied us and helped make this trip possible.



Neil Walters  
**Teacher Social Science**  
**Geography Co-ordinator and Duke of Edinburgh Award leader**

## Parents and Citizens' Association

Our April zoom meeting last month was well attended. Thank you to all who attended. Thank you to Mrs Iosifidis (Head Teacher Mathematics) for her informative talk on Mathematics in SGGHS. Maths is a very important subject and as parents it's helpful to understand the structure of Maths learning during the high school years.

We had our Bunnings BBQ on 2 May 2021. Thank you to all our volunteers. It was a fine day but sales were a bit slow, we put it down to a number of events occurring on the same day.

A reminder we now have the 2021 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>

The P&C committee meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month during school terms. Our next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 27 May 2021 as a virtual Zoom meeting. The link will be provided closer to the date. We look forward to hearing from our next guest speaker Ms Sibylle Georgius (Head Teacher Languages). Everyone is welcome to attend. The P&C looks forward to connecting with all parents at these meetings throughout the year to support our daughter's education. For those not receiving the links, please email me to be included in the P&C mailing list.

Regards

Sharon Khan  
**President P&C**  
[SGGHS.pca@gmail.com](mailto:SGGHS.pca@gmail.com)

## Mothers' Committee

Thank you to Ms Romeo for her Principal's Report, during which she discussed the External Validation process which occurs every five years. The Senior Executive Leadership team is preparing a very comprehensive evidence set which highlight the many qualities that make our school extraordinary within the state education system and an exceptional learning environment for our high potential students.

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

### Mother-Daughter Dinner

This month's meeting focused on the upcoming Mother Daughter Dinner being held at the stunning Georges River 16ft Sailing Club at Sandringham, on **Saturday 22 May**.

Our 2021 theme is '*Hollywood Glamour*', so mums and daughters will have the opportunity to pull out that fabulous frock that was worn only once and give it another whirl on the dance floor.

According to reviews, the food is delicious, the prizes are endless, and the evening is always a stunning success!

We are asking our supportive school community for donations to serve as prizes in the raffle. Gift cards, gourmet hamper items, cosmetics, jewellery, candles, books etc. would be greatly appreciated. The more prizes we have, the more winners on the night.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to spend a fun night with your daughter and get to know other mums in our school community.

Tickets are limited due to COVID restrictions...and almost sold out.



## Uniform Shop News

### Navy Winter Coats on Sale at the Uniform Shop

The coat is currently on sale for \$150 from \$210. The plain navy coat is warm for winter and does not have a school crest.

The Uniform Shop will be open every Wednesday during the school term from 12:45pm – 3:30pm. The uniform shop is run by parent volunteers, so thank you to all the parents who have assisted and we extend a very warm welcome to any parents who can spare some time to volunteer. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Cathy.

Best wishes,

Kim Le  
**President, Mothers' Committee**  
Contact Ph: 0421 849 753

Cathy Anderson  
**Uniform Shop Coordinator**  
Contact Ph: 0423 533 855

[stgeorgehsmotherscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgehsmotherscommittee@gmail.com)

## St Georgians

### Save the Date!

### 2021 Annual Reunion Luncheon – Saturday 23 October

### New Venue – The Sapphire Room, St George Motor Boat Club, Sans Souci

We are thrilled to announce that our 2021 Annual Reunion Luncheon will be held on Saturday 23 October in the Sapphire Room at St George Motor Boat Club, Sans Souci. All ex-students and staff are invited to attend. Life Members of The St Georgians will receive a personal invitation before bookings are open to others. We look forward to a wonderful day filled with shared memories, chatter and laughter! This is our one fundraiser of the year – please help us support the school.

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.

### 2021 Annual General Meeting

Our 2021 Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 22 July at St George Leagues Club, Kogarah.

Due to the current pandemic situation, our regular monthly 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. 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](mailto:TheStGeorgians@hotmail.com)

Kim Archibald  
**President**  
0410 582 636

Heather Jennings  
**Secretary**  
9501 4641



# Coming Events

Tuesday 11 May	Gazette issued on school website and emailed to parents and students Year 10 Vaccinations Year 12 Music Composition Master Class
Wednesday 12 May	NAPLAN Online
Friday 14 May	NAPLAN Online Year 11 Latin and Ancient History Excursion, Chau Chak Wing Museum
Monday 17 May	Year 12 Ethics Olympiad Year 12 Personal Best Interviews
Tuesday 18 May	NAPLAN Online
Wednesday 19 May	Year 10 English Incursion
Thursday 20 May	NAPLAN Online
Friday 21 May	Knockout Table Tennis Competition
Saturday 22 May	Mother Daughter Dinner, Georges River 16ft Sailing Club, 6:30pm
Monday 24 May	Year 11 Personal Best Interviews Year 10 'High Resolves' Years 7 and 8 Parent/Student Study Skills Evening – Live Webinar, 6pm
Wednesday 26 May – Friday 28 May	Year 9 Camp
Wednesday 26 May – Thursday 27 May	Year 11 Visual Arts Camp, Bundanon
Thursday 27 May	Year 8 Japanese Excursion, Taken Centre, Kirrawee Parents and Citizens' Association Meeting, Via Zoom, 7pm
Monday 31 May – Wednesday 2 June	Music Camp, Stanwell Tops
Wednesday 2 June	Mothers' Committee Meeting, Annual General Meeting, Library, 10am
Thursday 3 June	Year 7 Technology – Farming Incursion Year 12 HSC and Careers Expo, Hordern Pavilion, 4pm – 6:30pm
Monday 7 June	Year 10 and 11 Parent Teacher Interviews, 3:45pm