

# St George Girls High School

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Monthly Bulletin

September 2021  
Vol. 26 No.6



## **Mothers' Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 6 October  
via Zoom  
10am

## **Years 8 and 9 Parent Teacher Interviews**

Friday 15 October  
via Zoom

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

Thursday 28 October  
via Zoom  
7pm

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

### **Congratulations to Mrs Housego on her appointment to the role of Deputy Principal – Curriculum at SGGHS**

I am delighted to formally announce to our community that Mrs Amber Housego was successful in her application for the Deputy Principal – Curriculum position at St George Girls High School following a very competitive and rigorous merit selection process.



Mrs Housego brings with her a detailed and demonstrated understanding of the complexity involved in leading the daily operations of a large selective high school along with comprehensive experience in effectively safeguarding the wellbeing needs of the high potential learners we serve.

Mrs Housego has a strong and genuine affection for our school and has a shared vision for the Deputy Principal – Curriculum portfolio at St George Girls High School for the future that draws on her deep understanding of the needs of our unique school context and the strategic directions we are collaboratively working towards.

We are so excited to welcome Mrs Amber Housego into this most important senior leadership position in our school and extend to her a warm congratulations on behalf of the staff, students, parents and broader St George Girls High School community. Mrs Housego officially commences her substantive tenure in the role of Deputy Principal - Curriculum from the start of Term 4, 2021.

## **The Roadmap back to Face-to-Face Learning**

We have made it to the final week of what has been the most unusual, challenging and interrupted school term we have experienced to date during this pandemic.

I just wanted to say a very BIG thank you to all staff, students and families for their efforts and for the unconditional support that has been provided over the past 10 weeks, as we needed to respond to and adapt to whatever was thrown our way.

I am grateful to be the leader of this wonderful school and proud of the way we have worked together to safeguard learning continuity for our students during this difficult time in our global community.

I have shared with staff, students and families the details of the NSW Government's recent announcement regarding the roadmap back to face-to-face learning for our students. We know that students will return to face-to-face learning either through a 'full return' or 'staged return' depending on NSW Health conditions in their area and this planning is dependent on high levels of vaccination rates and low levels of Covid-19 transmission in the community.

The DoE has updated the Covid-19 Safe School Operations model and I have included this updated operational model as a flyer in this month's Gazette correspondence.

Unfortunately, it will be a while before school operations return to normal and it will be even longer before we are permitted to invite our parents/carers and community members back to the school site in a covid-safe way.

As it stands at the moment, SGGHS is operating at Level 4 Plus, as our school in an LGA of concern. Level 4 Plus applies to schools in the following LGAs: Bayside, Blacktown, Burwood, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool, Parramatta, select suburbs within the Penrith LGA and Strathfield.

Schools in these areas will continue learning from home until they are removed from the list of the LGAs of concern. We now wait to see how the situation develops over the coming weeks and I will continue to keep our community updated with any developments as they arise.

When Georges River is no longer listed as an LGA of concern, we can look forward to finalising the planning to commence the staggered return for prioritised cohorts back to school from Term 4 Week 4, Monday 25 October. A summary of the key dates and details announced by the NSW Government are provided below;

- From **Monday 25 October**, select cohorts under stay-at-home rules – starting with students in Kindergarten and Year 1 – will return to face-to-face learning under **Level 3 Plus** COVID-safe settings, as long as community transmission and vaccination rate requirements have been met.
- **Students in Year 12** and those completing their HSC are already able to return in a limited way, and this will continue for the remainder of Term 3. From **25 October**, these students will have full-time access to school campuses and their teachers.
- From **Monday 1 November**, students in Years 2, 6 and 11 will return to school sites under Level 3 plus settings.
- From **Monday 8 November**, students in Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 return to school sites under Level 3 plus settings.
- HSC exams will be delayed until **Tuesday 9 November** with a revised timetable and guidelines for a COVID-safe HSC now released by NESA.
- The NSW Public Health Order (PHO) has been updated to mandate that masks are required for students in Years 7-12 both indoors and outdoors.
- DoE online Check-In assessments will be scheduled for students in Years 7-9 as soon as they return to school in Term 4.

This announcement is certainly welcomed and our school will now begin to undertake the necessary strategic planning required to safely return our students and teachers back to face-to-face learning (hopefully from the second half of next term). At this stage, we have certainty that SGGHS will continue with its remote learning school operations for at least the first half of Term 4. Our teachers continue to work exceptionally hard to deliver quality remote learning experiences for our students that are both educational and engaging and I know our students and families are grateful for this ongoing commitment.

A reminder to all families that the most updated advice from the Department of Education (DoE) is always available on their website that can be accessed via the following link;

[Advice for families \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/education/schools/covid-19/school-operations)



## Our Champions... The Class of 2021

Our Year 12 students have successfully completed their alternate assessment tasks that were implemented as the SGGHS Trial HSC contingency plan. As our school originally had a Trial HSC Examination scheduled as part of the internal school-based assessment, we made the decision to follow NESAs advice that stipulated clearly that we could conduct these Trial Examinations from home or provide an alternative assessment task suitable for learning from home.

I am grateful for the way our Head Teachers and teachers have pivoted to find a sensible way to deliver alternative tasks that were modified in duration, weighting and components/outcomes assessed to allow our Year 12 students to successfully complete their internal school-based assessment. We are a collaborative and responsive profession who always place learning continuity at the centre of what we do and this was certainly demonstrated over the past few weeks.

I thank our Year 12 students for the agility and resilience they demonstrated in the way they responded to this change in advice and for the massive effort they continued to invest into their preparations leading into this final assessment period. I know the students are pleased that their internal school-based assessment is now complete.

There is no doubt that the HSC journey for the Class of 2021 has been different and significantly impacted by this pandemic. We also know with great confidence that this cohort of learners can face and respond to whatever is thrown their way as they have developed the innate capacity to get through a particularly tough and challenging time with determination, grit and inner strength, which sets them in great stead to navigate through life's adventures and inevitable challenges.



With confirmation that our school will continue with its remote learning operations for a while longer, the Senior Executive in consultation with the School Captain, Vice-Captains and Executive Leadership team have met to reconsider how we can appropriately celebrate the Class of 2021.

We have decided to postpone the final week celebrations until Term 4, when hopefully we will have Year 12 students and teachers back onsite. This will provide us with more flexibility around the type of activities we can undertake to appropriately and safely celebrate the conclusion of 13 years of formal schooling. I know the students are very much looking forward to the possibility of being able to celebrate their final week with their friends and teachers at school prior to their HSC Examinations commencing on Tuesday 9 November.

I would like to thank the Year 12 Cohort Team, Ms Abson, Mrs Jospe and Mrs Torrisi for their unconditional support of the Class of 2021 and for the creative effort they have invested into planning some fun for our Year 12 students this week. I know the students will appreciate celebrating this milestone week with the teachers they respect so much.



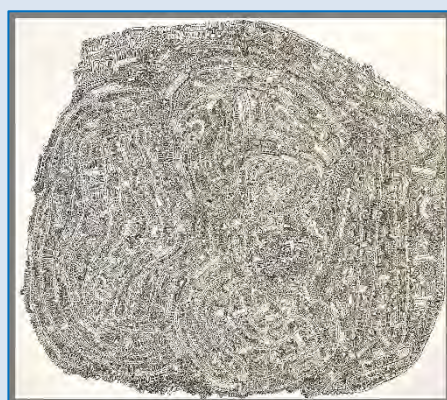
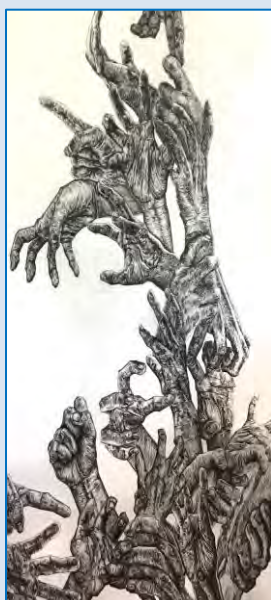
At this stage, I am unable to confirm any specific details about the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony as yet. Last year we made the difficult decision in consultation with students and the Executive Leadership team, to postpone the ceremony until after the HSC Examinations. I can only hope that the current situation improves and we will be given clear guidelines and advice regarding the capacity for DoE schools to host such important celebrations in Term 4. As soon as we have this updated advice, I plan to again consult with staff and students to determine how we can safely formally celebrate the end of secondary schooling for the graduating Class of 2021. We have claimed a tentative date for this celebration, Tuesday 7 December and the school will communicate further details and arrangements closer to this time.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have our Year 12 students as such an integral part of the school's social fabric for the past six years and I would like to thank all of the unique individuals who together form the Class of 2021 for their continued support and contribution to the school. I look forward to being able to plan for a great celebration of the Class of 2021 later in Term 4.

### Year 12 Visual Arts Body of Works

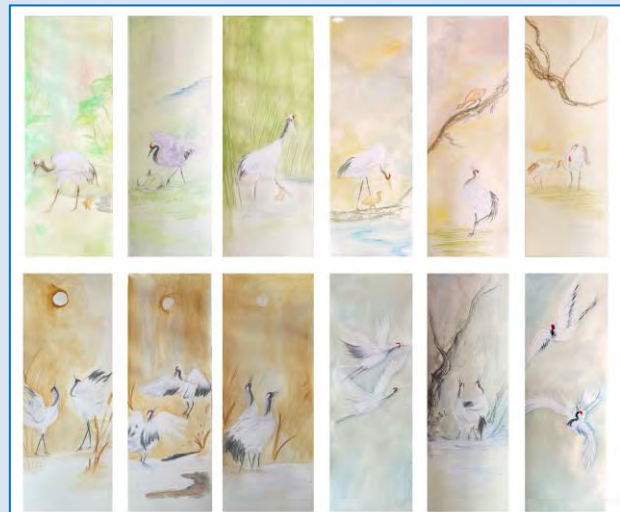
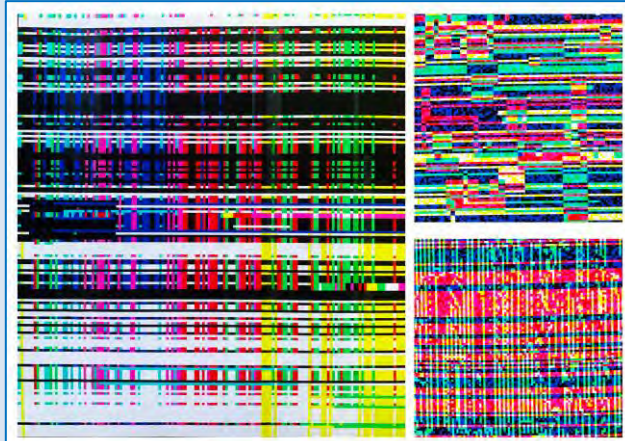
Unfortunately, due to the extended period of remote learning school operations the Annual Art Exhibition that showcases the extraordinary creative talents of the Visual Arts students and our Year 12 students in particular did not take place this year. The quality of the 2021 HSC Visual Arts Body of Works created are outstanding and I would like to congratulate the students on their efforts invested and to say a special thank you to their teacher Mr Andrew Batten for his guidance throughout this year. Mr Batten has kindly provided a few images of the 2021 Year 12 Body of Works to share with the community this month. I am sure you will agree that the quality of student work realised during such a challenging set of circumstances is exemplary.

### Year 12 Visual Arts Body of Works





## Year 12 Visual Arts Body of Works



## 2021/2022 Prefect Announcement

It is with great pleasure that I officially announce the newly elected Prefect Leadership team for 2021/22.

**Captain:** Eleni Markantonakis

**Vice-Captains:** Amara Randhawa and Aneesa Sukkarieh

### **Prefects:**

Lucy Anderson  
Hayley L Chan  
Anna Cheng  
Niamh Deuis  
Katherine Elliot  
Chanisa Jennings  
Lily Knowles  
Elizabeth Koubaroulis  
Jessica Lau  
Lara Murphy  
Mary Murray  
Cecilia Nguyen  
Trilochana Sri Ganeshwaran

There is no greater honour than to have your peers and teachers identify in you the necessary skills and qualities needed to be an effective school leader. To be nominated and elected into such a prestigious office is certainly a great achievement. This year we had 71 nominations for Prefect and this is a testament to the exceptional leadership potential and skills that exist amongst our student population.

To accept the position of Prefect is a decision which is not taken lightly and carries enormous responsibility as the position is one of trust and commitment. I am confident that our newly elected Prefects will be excellent student leaders and role models and I look forward to working collaboratively with this group over the next 12 months. Congratulations to all our newly elected Prefects and I wish them all the very best as they begin your journey in this most important and notable position in our school.

We look forward to finding the opportunity to officially induct our new school leaders into office next term and I look forward to communicating the arrangements for this as soon as we are able to host school assemblies at school.

## 2022 Years 8-11 Applications Update

I wanted to provide our community with an update on the progress made regarding our Years 8-11 application process for 2022. We obviously were unable to conduct the ACER Higher Ability Selective Test (HAST) onsite for our prospective students and unfortunately ACER does not offer an online equivalent of the test.

The selective schools that coordinate the HAST are not in a position to run the testing together and the selection committees from the coordinating schools have decided to work through their own process to consider applicants for 2022. To respond to this, St George Girls High School has sought out a comparable and alternate online testing platform that examines similar skills to the HAST, to facilitate the testing requirement that forms the first part of the selection committee process for applicants.

The testing platform that will be used for this purpose this year is Edutest - Selective Entry Papers (hosted online). There will be 4 key skills tests that the students will sit as part of the online exam and they are: verbal reasoning, numerical reasoning, reading comprehension and mathematics. The test was undertaken on Saturday 11 September 2021 and I look forward to being in a position to now proceed with the selection process for student entry in 2022, hopefully making initial offers early next term.



## 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 news.

- Congratulations to Roisin Joono in Year 8 for achieving the highest place in the 2021 Australian Society of Medical Research (ASMR) High School Quiz for the Year 7-8 age group. This decision was based on Roisin's quiz score and the creativity and thoughtfulness of her optional open-ended response, which highlights an awareness of today's most relevant medical issues and expresses a keen interest for future medical careers. This is a wonderful achievement worth celebrating.
- It is a real shame that Mr Kirszman and I were unable to attend the Young Writer's Showcase launch earlier this term to celebrate the selection of Clarissa Lee's English Extension 2 Major Work in WordeXpress. NESA has decided to launch the anthology and acknowledge the students' achievements online and I have included the link and the screenshot from the NESA website that celebrates this most noteworthy achievement.

[Young Writers Showcase | NSW Education Standards](#)

## The talent behind Young Writers Showcase 20

### Clarissa Lee: St George Girls High School

*Zero*  
Short fiction

Clarissa Lee blends poetic and prosaic literary styles in her short fiction story *Zero*, exploring the tension between the desire to seek the meaning of our existence in a universe that is indifferent to these desires. Clarissa describes her major work as an extension of herself, harnessing her own experiences from the COVID-19 pandemic to articulate the emotions portrayed in *Zero*.

The elusiveness of her major work was purposefully done, so audiences could find a personal resonance in *Zero* to their own understanding of the meaning of life, 'to capture the liberation that is associated with a lack of definitive meaning in life, to find solace in the arbitrariness of every aspect of existence'.

Clarissa is studying law and philosophy at university, enjoying the exploration of new philosophical concepts. She aims to begin writing another project soon.



I wish all members of the SGGHS community a well-deserved end of term break. Please take a moment to rest, recharge and focus on prioritising the time for yourself and your loved ones. It has been an exhausting term and the energy invested into maintaining remote learning operations has been intense and relentless for everyone. I look forward to next term, when we can hopefully begin to plan to have our staff and students return safely back to school. Until then, take care and happy holidays. Staff and students return on Tuesday 5 October, ready and refreshed to see out the final term of this crazy year.

Ms Betty Romeo  
**Principal**

## Deputy Principal's Report – Teaching and Learning

### Year 12 Final Weeks and Celebrations

**A**s we look back over the term that has been, I don't think anyone could've predicted what Term 3 was going to look like when we were left for school holidays at the end of Term 2. As we are now in our final week of the term, and what would have been the week of celebrations for Year 12, it is timely to look back and reflect on the journey we have been on together. Trial Examinations were pushed back by a week, then 2 weeks, then again as information would come through about lockdown extensions and we were forced to adapt to accommodate these new guidelines and requirements. Finally, Year 12 were able to complete the online alternate assessment block tasks as part of the school-based assessment schedule and although this was certainly a new, and rather daunting, experience for everyone, we worked together to achieve our goal.

Feedback from the final assessment tasks is a good indicator of what students know and, just as important, the areas where more depth of knowledge is required. It is important to use the feedback to structure a study timetable that allows students opportunities to reinforce the understanding of key course content and consolidate their knowledge by undertaking practice questions and past HSC papers. As we were not able to conduct Trial HSC Examinations, and therefore provide the opportunity to mimic the HSC and practice sitting for a 3-hour exam, it is vital that students use the coming 2 months to allocate time to complete past HSC papers under exam conditions including time constraints. During their study times, it is very important that students take regular rest breaks, continue to apply healthy eating and sleep habits and maintain a positive wellbeing and mindset.

### Term 4 Week 4 Celebrations

Normally Year 12 would be enjoying their final celebrations this week, however due to the current situation, the official final week for Year 12 will be celebrated in Term 4 Week 4, when hopefully we are back onsite and students can celebrate in person with their peers and teachers. Specific details about the activities planned for this week, will be emailed to Year 12 parents/carers in Term 4.

To celebrate the end of a very challenging and disrupted term for Year 12, we have still been able to arrange a number of activities and some fun to share with Year 12 in this final week of the term. I look forward to sharing these activities and photos with everyone in the next Gazette.

### HSC Written Examinations

The revised timetable is now available on the NESA Website and students can access their personalised timetable through Students Online. Examinations commence on Tuesday 9 November and conclude on Friday 3 December. Strict COVID-safe protocols have been developed and will be implemented across all schools to ensure the safety of the HSC examinations. All necessary information will be provided to Year 12 students and parents/carers in Term 4, prior to the commencement of the examinations.

### Year 12 Graduation

The Year 12 Graduation was postponed and will be rescheduled to Term 4, following the conclusion of the HSC. Details regarding the Year 12 Graduation will be made available once there is further information and advice provided by the Department of Education.

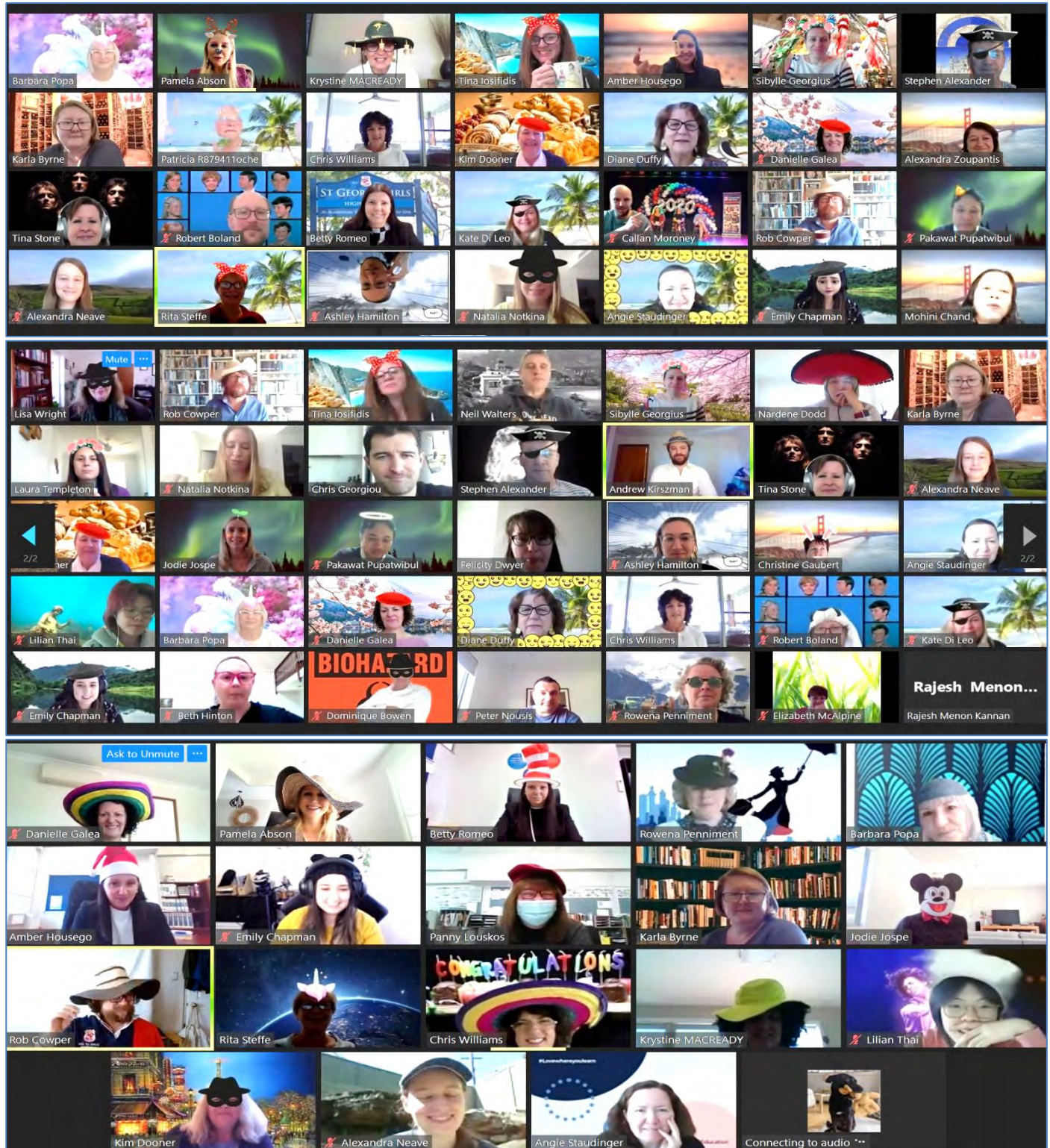
### SGGHS Professional Learning and Zoom Staff Meetings

Throughout Term 3, staff have continued to engage in professional learning, as well as staff and faculty meetings to ensure the continuity of collegial collaboration during remote learning and attendance at key workshops. Online professional learning this term included:

- School audit training
- Road safety workshop
- Kogarah Principal's Network meeting
- Complaints Handling Workshop



It was also good to have a bit of fun during our meetings to make remote learning a little easier, so staff also enjoyed some virtual morning teas with themes and a Kahoot quiz for some much needed interaction and laughter with colleagues. We had fun changing our virtual backgrounds and adding virtual effects and had a crazy hat/beanie theme as well. It was a lot of fun and great to see the staff get involved as well.



## Parenting Ideas

This month's articles from 'Insights' are:

**'Building resilience during the COVID pandemic'.** Resilience-promotion is a crucial part of parenting. This evidenced-based approach from the team at Harvard University shows parents how to build resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**'Everyday resilience lessons for kids'.** It's the small, everyday behaviours we encourage in kids that have the greatest impact on their behaviour, wellbeing, and resilience.



## Study Skills Tip for September

This month's study skills tip (attached) is **'Students and Sleep'**. Quality sleep improves your mental, emotional, and physical performance. It also improves your immune system, balances your hormones, boosts your metabolism, and improves your brain function. The study skills tips provides a range of top tips related to sleep.

You will find lots of resources to support you on the Study Skills Handbook site ([www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au))

\*\*\* We also have a direct link from our school intranet for students that will take you straight through to the handbook without the need to enter the username or password.

## Term 3 Wellbeing Initiatives

Throughout the term, the Wellbeing Executive and Cohort Teams have provided a lot of different wellbeing activities, resources and support for our students to assist them through the difficult time of remote learning and lockdown. The information below provides a snap shot of the daily dragon pride posts, which provide a wellbeing focus to start the day, as well as the activities and focus themes addressed during the two wellbeing assembly sessions held this term for Years 7-11

## Dragon Pride Posts

**5 Lessons in Life from Dr. Seuss**

1. Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You.
2. Why fit in when you were born to stand out?
3. You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.
4. Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.
5. Today I shall behave, as if this is the day I will be remembered.

LoveHilapic.com

**Monday**  
New Start  
New Beginning  
New Perspective  
Make today COUNT!

teBloom

She was unstoppable, not because she did not have failures or doubts, but because she continued on despite them.

-Brené Tipler

**BE STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND ALONE, SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN YOU NEED HELP, AND BRAVE ENOUGH TO ASK FOR IT.**

Track your wellbeing and get personalised information, videos, podcasts, quizzes and tips to help you tame your niggles. Plus, hear from other young people as they share their stories and find out what helped them!

From feeling down or sad to sexual identity, dealing with conflict, loneliness and more - this is your take home, self-help toolkit that is here for you 24/7 for all things related to mental, social and emotional wellbeing.

**SUCCESS**      **SUCCESS**

what people think it looks like      what it really looks like

**WELL-BEING DURING COVID-19**

Resources to assist every member of the family during lock-down isolation

**GIVE**   **KEEP LEARNING**   **CONNECT**  
**BE ACTIVE**   **TAKE NOTICE**

**I am**

POWERFUL, GENIUS, INCREDIBLE, FIERCE, CAPABLE, FEARLESS, SUPPORTIVE, STRONG, EMPOWERED, WORTHY, SUCCESSFUL, HELD, IMPORTANT, REPORTANT, UNDEFEATED, BRAVE, RESILIENT, COURAGEOUS, MIGHTY, INTELLIGENT, AMAZING, TENDERS, GOOD, FLOOD

Wellbeing tip...

Remind yourself that some moments are smooth, some are tougher. Our journeys are unique. Thank goodness, otherwise life would be boring. During the tough moments, breath, put your hand on your heart and remind yourself, 'I've got this'.

Adolescents are only getting between 6.5 and 7.5 hours of sleep on school nights

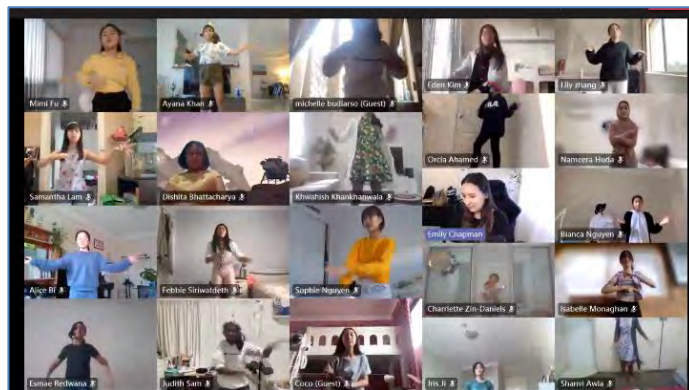
Age Group	Hours of Sleep	Category
6-12	9-12	Recommended
13-18	8-10	Recommended
19-24	7-9	Recommended
25-34	7-9	Recommended
35-44	7-9	Recommended
45-54	7-9	Recommended
55-64	7-9	Recommended
65+	7-8	Recommended

**GOOD FOOD = GOOD MOOD**



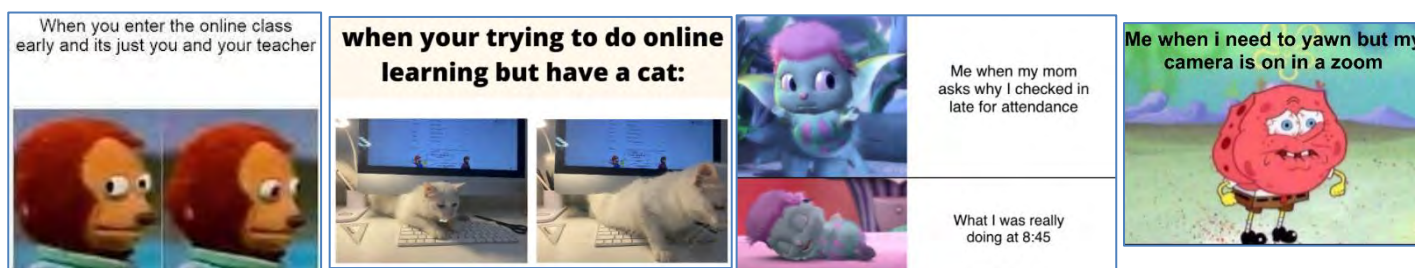
## Year 7 Wellbeing Activities

To focus on physical and social wellbeing, Year 7 held a special DANCE -OFF assembly, with prizes for best dancer, most creative outfit/costume and best energy! They also discussed the importance of good routine, some tips to support remote learning and maintaining focus on school work as well as ways to keep connected with their peers and cohort. Year 7 have also posted positive messages and photos on the Year Padlet throughout term



## Year 8 Wellbeing Activities

Year 8 started with a Meme challenge where students had to create their own meme with some sort of positive/funny spin on our current COVID situation.

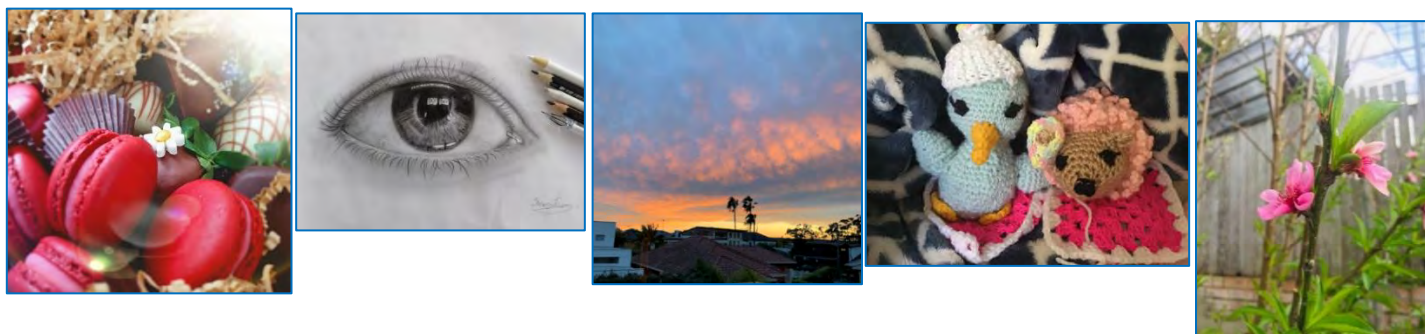


A planned presentation for Year 8 this term was from the Butterfly Foundation on Body Image in the Digital World. As this was not able to go ahead, in the second wellbeing session Year 8 watched a TED talk by the famous model Cameron Russell and then had to write a short paragraph on what they learnt.



## Year 9 Wellbeing Activities

Year 9 students completed a photo activity where they submitted images, photos or drawings that represented the beautiful things in their lives or things they love to do.



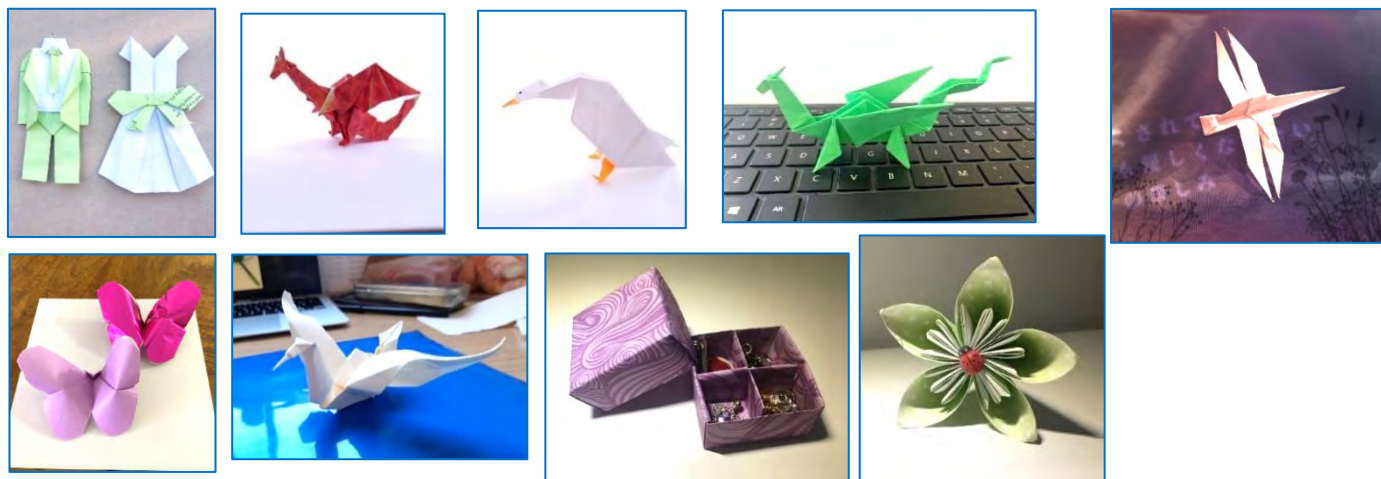
## Year 10 Wellbeing Activities

In one of the wellbeing sessions, Year 10 completed activities focussed on nutrition and sleep, linked to the study skills unit on Lifestyle and Balance. Students were reminded that during this period of remote learning, it is more important than ever to keep a handle on the key things that have an instrumental impact on our ability to cope, stay motivated and achieve success in our daily tasks. You should never underestimate the value of:

- Good food and hydration
- Rest for mind and body
- Exercise

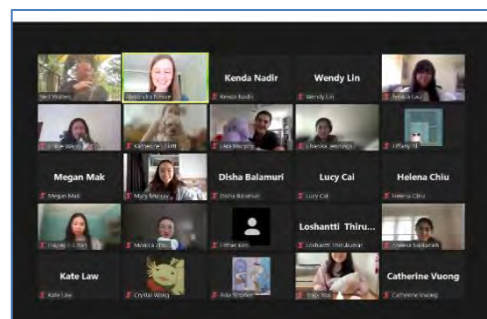
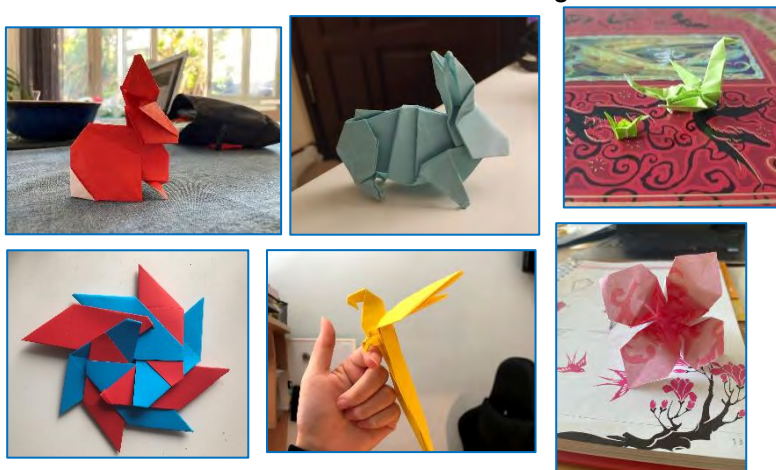


Year 10 also did an origami challenge and here are some of the creative origami from our students:



## Year 11 Wellbeing Activities

Year 11 spent time discussing subject selection for the upcoming HSC year, brought their pets to the Year Zoom meeting and also had some time out to do some creative origami.





## R U OK? Day –

On Thursday 9 September, the staff and students at SGGHS participated in R U OK? Day to reinforce the importance of looking out for each other, to notice the signs if someone you know does not seem to be going OK and teach how to ask the difficult question – R U OK?

This year, more than ever, it was important to take a moment and reflect on what the past few months have been like. Everyone has had to tackle lockdown and COVID in different ways and often we do not really know what this has been like for our friends, family, colleagues and students, but everyone in some way has been impacted by this pandemic.

At any time, if you have any concerns about your daughter, please reach out to the Cohort Team (Deputy Principal and Year Advisors), the Head Teacher Wellbeing or the School Counselling Service.



## Getting ready to ask

Before you can look out for others, you need to look out for yourself, and that's okay. If you're not in the right headspace or you don't think you're the right person to have the conversation, try to think of someone else in their support network who could talk to them.

To help you decide whether you're ready to start a meaningful conversation, ask yourself:



### AM I READY?

- Am I in a good headspace?
- Am I willing to genuinely listen?
- Can I give as much time as needed?



### AM I PREPARED?

- Do I understand that if I ask how someone's going, the answer could be: "No, I'm not"?
- Do I understand that I can't 'fix' someone's problems?
- Do I accept that they might not be ready to talk? Or they might not want to talk to me?



### PICKED MY MOMENT?

- Have I chosen somewhere comfortable and relatively private?
- Have I figured out a time that will be good for them to chat?
- Have I set aside enough time for a proper chat?

## Useful contacts for someone who's not OK

**Kids Helpline (24/7)**  
1800 55 1800  
kidshelpline.com.au

**Beyond Blue (24/7)**  
1300 224 636  
beyondblue.org.au

**ReachOut**  
www.reachout.com

**R U OK?**  
ruok.org.au/findhelp

**Headspace**  
headspace.org.au

really Are they OK? Ask them today

**R U OK?**

Ms Pamela Abson  
Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning  
Deputy Principal – Year 8, 10 and 12

## Deputy Principal's Report – Curriculum

### Year 11 Commence HSC Courses

It's an exciting time of the year for Year 11 students who are in the process of completing their final week of Preliminary studies. Remote learning has meant there have been a number of changes to the final term of Year 11 and I want to commend all Year 11 students for their flexibility and adaptability navigating the changes to the end of course assessments. I hope all of Year 11, with great excitement and anticipation, look forward to next term where they will begin their HSC studies in Week 2 of Term 4. Students will receive their new timetables on Monday 11 October and HSC courses will commence at this time. Although we continue on with remote learning for the beginning of next term, the students transitioned so smoothly into remote studies this term, I have great confidence they will continue to do so and remain committed and focused ready for the final term ahead.

### Years 7 and 9 NAPLAN Results are finally in

Last week the school received Years 7 and 9 student NAPLAN results, which have now been sent out to all families and should be received over the coming week. Ms Romeo and I spent some time briefly last week looking over the NAPLAN results and as a school we were very pleased with our overall performance and the growth that was evident. Schools are yet to receive all of the explicit performance and growth data, yet when this comes in we will be examining all results in great depth, looking at areas for future improvement and to celebrate areas of success and achievement. Watch this space for further progress updates. If you are yet to receive your daughter's NAPLAN results by the end of the school holidays, please contact the school and this will be followed up.

### Subject Selection Process

Elective subject selection for 2022 has now been completed by all students in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11. Thank you to all parents/carers for the time taken to go through the presentations with your daughters and we were glad to hear that many of you were able to use the information provided by the school when discussing subject choices together.

Looking forward to Term 4, Ms Romeo will now go through the data and work on formulating what subjects will be offered for 2022. At this point, no changes will be made to student subject choices next term as the classes are being finalised for next year. Any requests to alter any subjects will be considered early in Term 1 2022.

### Screen Free Friday and Tools Down Tuesday

On Friday, 10 September and Tuesday 14 September, all students and staff engaged in a Screen Free – Wellbeing day. After a long term of remote teaching and learning, students and staff certainly enjoyed the opportunity to disconnect from online learning and engage in some purposeful wellbeing activities. The following photos and reflections showcase some of the wonderful wellbeing activities students engaged in during the day.

"I painted and had a bit of fun decorating my plain closet!"

"Friday was a great day. I went for a walk and made a video as part of a challenge I'm currently doing."

"I took this opportunity to reconnect with some friends to ask how they are and just catch up as it can feel lonely during this difficult time."





**"By no means a florist, but definitely experimented today"**



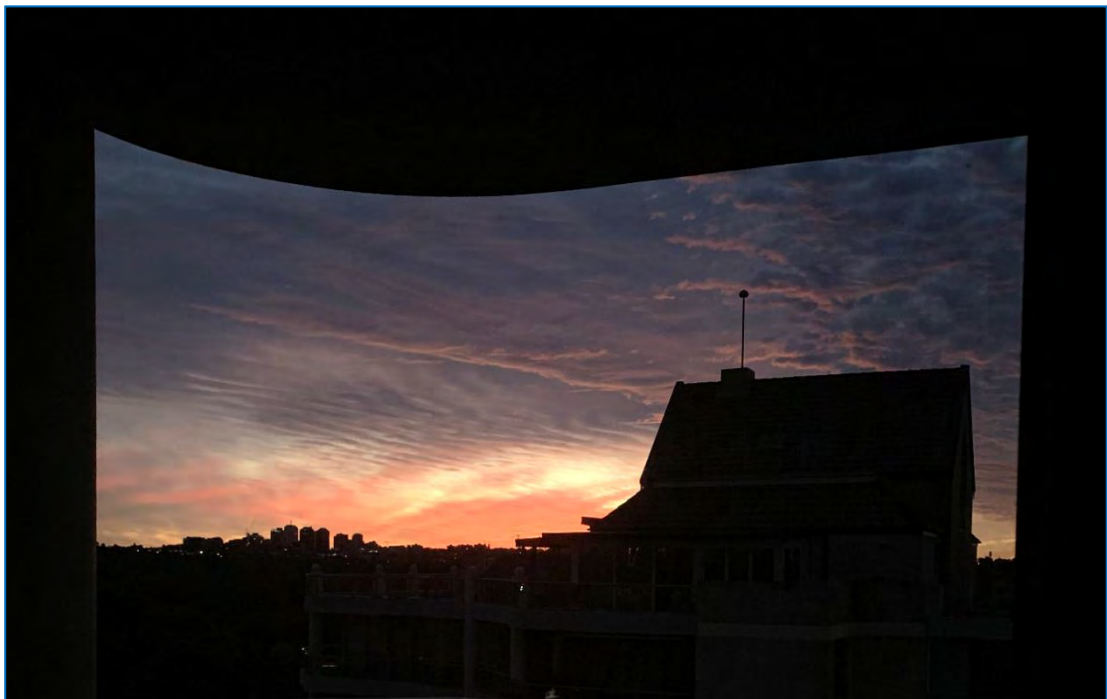
**"I appreciated the break, I was able to relax and do some working out."**



**"It was quite warm outside this morning, a nice change from the winter weather! My sister and I took our bunnies outside to play today!"**

**"I Loved Baking Nice Things for My Family Today"**





**“I woke up early to go for a walk today. I was lucky enough to have a screen free day and a birthday on the same day!! Here’s the sky from my balcony from when I woke up this morning. :)”**

On a personal note, it is with great pleasure that I commence my permanent role as Deputy Principal-Curriculum at St George Girls High School from Term 4. I feel very humbled to be given the opportunity to lead our school alongside two of the most inspirational and dedicated educational leaders I know, Ms Romeo and Ms Abson. I have gained extensive insight and understanding into the Deputy Principal Curriculum portfolio at SGGHS over the years, and now look forward to bringing refinement, innovation and new opportunities to this portfolio. I also look forward to continuing to work closely with staff, students, parents and families to foster an environment where we all can continue to connect, thrive and benefit from being a part of the SGGHS community.

Mrs Amber Housego

**Relieving Deputy Principal – Curriculum**

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



## Green Corner



### Fact of the Month

If Earth's history is compared to a calendar year: Modern human has existed for about 37 minutes. One third of Earth's natural resources has been consumed in the last 0.2 seconds (by modern humans).

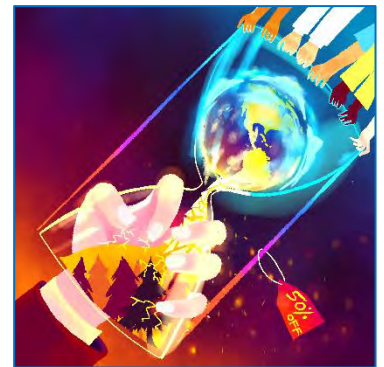
### Speak 4 the Planet 2021

The Enviro Council held an in-school competition to select entries for Speaking 4 the Planet 2021. The theme this year was "Rewind the Clock – Reverse ecosystem degradation"

Thank you to all of the students who participated. The quality was outstanding. Congratulations to the winners of our internal school competition. Students entered in the Art, Speech, Meme and Writing Categories. First place will be awarded \$25, Second place - \$15, Third place \$10 and this year a fourth place was awarded to the Art category of \$5 as the quality was exceptional for all entries. All of the ten listed entries have been entered into the Speaking 4 the Planet Local Government Area. Stay posted, we will let you know how they place once the results are back. Thank you to all of the Enviro Council Executive who helped to organise this event. A special thank you goes to Eliza Hoh who collated all of the entries as an online submission and finalising those entries which were then sent on to Speaking 4 the Planet.

### Art:

1. Mathea Alexandra Baeha – Year 10 photo of Artwork is attached
2. Mavis Siong Hong – Year 9 photo of Artwork is attached
3. Vibhasri Balaji – Year 10
4. Isabella Zhu – Year 9



### Speech:

1. Vibha (Sai Vibha) Pothuganti – Year 9

### Meme:

1. Bianca Nguyen – Year 7
2. Emily Wan – Year 9

### Writing:

1. Mandy Yang – Year 12
2. Adeeba Rahman – Year 9
3. Durgadevi Murugesan – Year 12



### Clean up Australia Day

On Friday 18 June Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 participated in our local Clean up Australia Day initiative around the school. The students spent half the day, picking up rubbish and generally cleaning the school grounds. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and made an invaluable contribution to sustaining environmental cleanliness. Thank you to Mrs Macready for her supervision of the students and work supporting the students with this invaluable undertaking.



It has been a while since we have been together as a school community as the Delta strain circulates throughout Sydney, here are some small projects you can undertake to preach sustainability from home

### Plastic Bag Laundry Basket



If you've still got stacks of grey plastic bags shoved away in the cupboard from that Woolworths era, consider upcycling them as this simple, sturdy basket that can have a versatile functioning.

Full instructions here:

<https://www.instructables.com/Make-a-basket-out-of-plastic-bags/>

### Reusable 'paper' towels



Thinking of making the swap to unpaper towels to save on money and electricity? It's easier than you think and only takes 15 minutes to make your own reusable paper towels

Full instructions here:

<https://www.paperstitchblog.com/how-to-make-reusable-paper-towels/>

### Enviro Online

A message from Sanavi Sanap – Enviro Council Executive:

Now that we're in lockdown it hasn't been possible for our normal Enviro Teams to take place. However, that shouldn't dampen our spirits or our enthusiasm to do something beneficial for the environment!

This is why the Enviro Council has organised an "Online Enviro"! Obviously, we can't do Worm Farm, Recycling, Return 'N' Earn and Gardening how we normally would at school, but it is still possible for each and every one of us to contribute to the environment at home! As part of "Enviro Online" you guys will get the chance to submit a creative and original poster or video submission containing the theme 'Environmentally Friendly Activities'.

All the information has been given out in a google form that has been posted to the daily announcements on Sentral in the daily announcements, on your year wide google classroom and check your email ! Get involved and do something creative! Prizes and service certificates are available!

Jashan Singh

Year 11

**Enviro Council Executive**

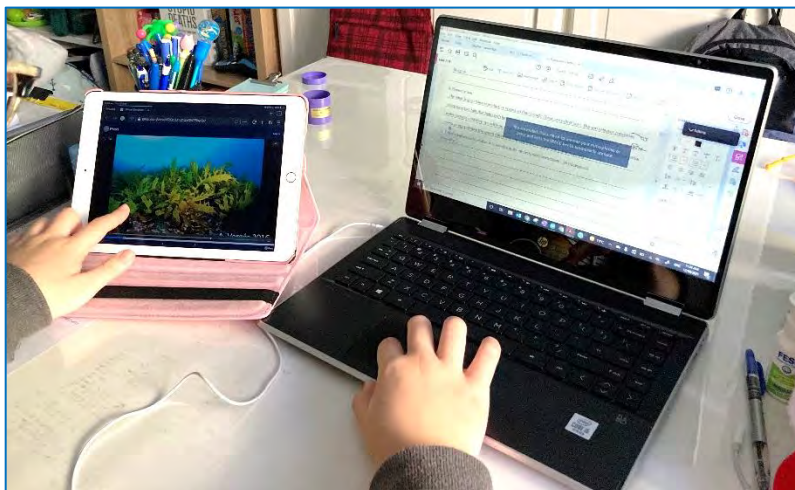
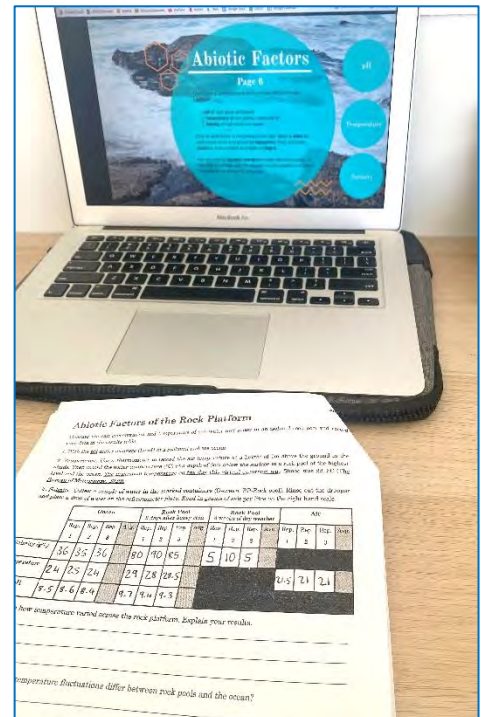
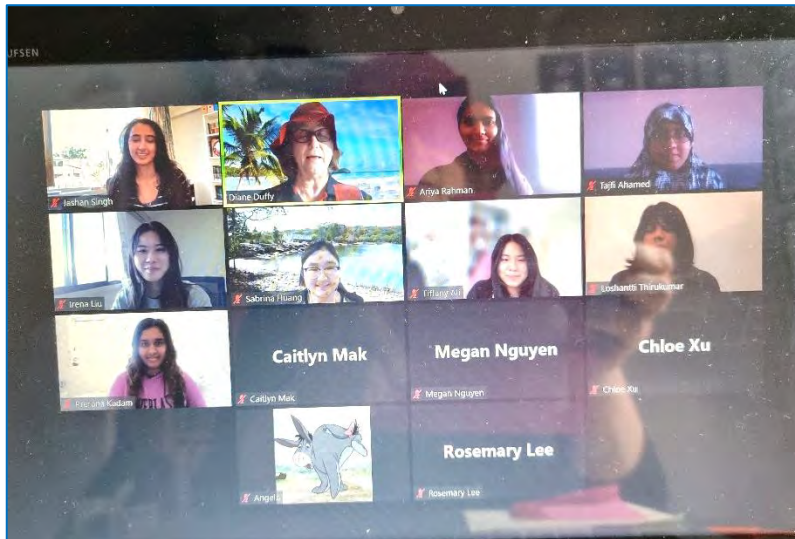
**Enviro Journalist**



## Year 11 Biology

Due to lockdown the usual compulsory field study for Module 4 – Ecosystem Dynamics was unable to go ahead. Instead all Year 11 Biology students along with their teachers Mrs Duffy, Mrs Conroy and Ms Fong participated in a virtual excursion to the Long Reef Rock Platform. This was a high-quality virtual excursion produced by the company Auseco which enabled the students to conduct qualitative and quantitative measurements of living organisms and gain the experience of actually being on the rock platform. Students were encouraged to dress as though they were going the rock platform with a hat, water bottle, sunscreen, beach towel and enjoying the break time together during the Zoom session in breakout rooms. This made the day fun and engaging for the students.

The virtual field study was conducted across two half days with the students logging in and working at their own pace. Feedback indicated that the students learned a lot about a rock platform ecosystem and even though nothing replaces a firsthand experience, the virtual field study was of a high quality and certainly provided an opportunity they would not have otherwise had during lockdown to full fill a compulsory part of the course.



## Parents and Citizens' Association

We are almost through Term 3 already. Last meeting we heard from Ms Elizabeth McAlpine, the school psychologist who provided some insightful thoughts into self-care for everyone. Covid-19 has presented many unexpected changes and this current phase of sustained remote learning has been challenging for students and their parents. The school continues to provide steady support for students on their learning pathway as we navigate towards an environment with easing restrictions and a return back to school hopefully in Term 4.

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 28 October 2021 and will be a virtual meeting with the TAS Head Teacher as guest speaker. 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

The Mothers' Committee meeting was held on 1 September 2021 and Ms Romeo mentioned the latest return to school plan which will continue to evolve as we approach this time. It is understandable that staff, parents and students have concerns surrounding this but the school community will as always, be kept up to date and the wellbeing of all involved the highest priority. The Mothers' Committee again thanks Ms Romeo, the executive, teachers, office staff and all other staff for their hard work under difficult circumstances. We would also like to wish the Year 12 students all the very best for their continued hard work over their recent assessment period and onwards towards their HSC exams. We recognise that the students and teachers, in particular Year 12, have had a very difficult time this year.

Congratulations to Mrs Amber Housego on attaining the permanent position of Deputy Principal at SGGHS. We are very happy to hear the news.

A Uniform Shop meeting was held on 30 August at which Mandy Nguyen presented her findings from researching software to purchase for ongoing streamlining of processes in the shop. She presented this information to the Mothers' Committee at our 1 September meeting and we are excited to announce that after voting on this, it will go ahead. Thank you to Mandy for her work on this. More information regarding this will follow when the system is introduced and running. We also discussed the sale of old uniform items in preparation for the new uniform which will be introduced in 2022, with a proposal by Nadisa which we discussed voted on. Marianne Skinner has kindly offered to assist with some administrative procedures regarding roles and responsibilities of Mothers' Committee Executive positions to ensure clarity for those who wish to volunteer for these positions in the future.

Our next Mothers' Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 October at 10am by Zoom. This is the first week of Term 4. The link will be in the Mothers' Committee chat and emailed to those who regularly attend. If you would like to attend and have not sent me your email address, please text it to me on 0423 533 855. Enjoy the holidays and I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Cathy Anderson  
**President, Mothers' Committee**  
**0423 533 855**



In our September 10:00am Zoom meeting, Ms Romeo presented her Principal's Report outlining the 'Roadmap Back to Face-to-Face Learning' and how that will look and feel for St George Girls, parents, teachers, and staff.

Ms Romeo provided an easy-to-understand detailed explanation of the latest correspondence from the Department of Education and its latest Covid-19 Safe School Operations model, which all parents received via email.

At this stage, bearing in mind that our school is located in the local government area of the Georges River (which is a Covid-19 area of concern) our students will continue with remote learning until the first half of Term 4, with Year 11 returning on Monday 1 November and Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 returning on Monday 8 November, at **Level 3 Plus**, with the compulsory requirement that masks are worn both in and out doors.

HSC examinations have been delayed until Tuesday 9 November, however, Year 12 students will have full-time access to school campus and teachers from 25 October, to ensure they continue to receive additional support with revision and feedback leading up to their HSC.

Also announced are two very welcome wellbeing days aptly named "Screen Free Friday" on 10 September and "Tools Down Tuesday" on 14 September.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 6 October at 10am via Zoom.**

### Uniform Shop News

**The Uniform Shop is Closed** – In the latest Uniform Shop news, the NSW Government has indicated that all students will have returned to school by 8 November, at **Level 3 Plus in our LGA**, however, all "*Non-essential visitors are not allowed on site (including parents and carers)*" until our school is operating at **Level 1**.

In accordance with the latest Department of Education Covid-19 Safe School Operations model, the Uniform Shop will *remain closed for the remainder of the 2021 school year*.

Rest assured, the Mothers' Committee in consultation with Ms Romeo, will be launching a new easy-to-use Online Uniform Shop, which will ensure parents have access to selecting and purchasing their daughter's uniforms in an easy and efficient manner.

At our last Mothers' Committee meeting, Mandy Nguyen presented a comprehensive demonstration of the proposed and much anticipated School Shop Online store, which was voted in unanimously. Mandy is working on the implementation of this interface to ensure it is launched as soon as possible.

We will be providing updates on the launch date, which we anticipate being in Term 4.

Please note, the new SGGHS uniform will only be available for purchase to the 2022 incoming Year 7 and Year 10 cohort. However, many items of the current uniform will be on sale at discounted prices, presenting significant savings which will appeal to many families.

**New Online Uniform Shop coming soon.....** *In the interim, we appreciate your patience.*

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

With best wishes to you and your family,

Nadisa Milo

**Vice President – Uniform Shop Coordinator**

**0404 424 364**

## St Georgians

### 2021 Annual Reunion Luncheon - Saturday 23 October 2021 CANCELLED

It was with deep regret that we have cancelled our 2021 St Georgians Annual Reunion Luncheon due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions in NSW. We look forward to a bigger and better get together in 2022.

### SAVE THE DATE! 2022 Annual Reunion Luncheon - Saturday 23 April 2022

Next year our Annual Reunion Luncheon will be held on Saturday 23 April – St George's Day – in The Sapphire Room at St George Motor Boat Club, Sans Souci. We hope that you will be able to support us at this event as 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 and to provide student prizes.

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)

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**President**  
0410 582 636

Heather Jennings  
**Secretary**  
9501 4641