

St George Girls High School

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The Gazette

Monthly Bulletin

September 2020
Vol. 25 No. 6



**Parents & Citizens'
Association Meeting**
Thursday 24 September
7pm

Mothers' Committee Meeting
Wednesday 4 November
Library
10am

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

The Final Countdown for the Class of 2020!!!

Our Year 12 students have now returned back to regular classes following the conclusion of the Trial HSC Examinations. This is a very exciting and important time for the students as they consolidate their learning during this vital post-Trial revision period.

Our Year 12 students should feel a very real sense of accomplishment now that they have successfully completed their Trial HSC Examinations. The post-Trial period is so important as students have the time to reflect on their areas of strength and identify the areas that will now require further attention and focus. It is great to have our Year 12 students back in class and I just wanted to congratulate the Class of 2020 on being one further step closer to the completion of their HSC studies with all their internal school assessments now finalised... well done!!!



The staff at SGGHS are celebrating and this year joining in to commemorate the final countdown for our Year 12 students. The staff have decided that this year the Class of 2020 need a little bit of fun and fanfare and every Friday morning they are dressing up to welcome the Year 12 students as they arrive at the school gates. It has been great to see the students laughing together with their Year Advisers and teachers as they count down towards final weeks at school together.

For many of our Year 12 students they have also completed their HSC Speaking and Performance examinations in Languages, Drama and Music. A significant number of students have also been focussing on completing and submitting their Major Works and Projects in Visual Arts, English Extension 2 and History Extension. It has been wonderful to experience and witness the quality work produced by the Class of 2020 and I have been so proud of the effort all students have invested into this significant chapter of their HSC journey. I am now excited to receive positive news from NESA regarding their HSC successes in December.

Term 3 is soon drawing to a close and it is that time of the year that we as a school officially farewell our Year 12 students and their families. 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 Class of 2020 for their continued support and contribution to the school. The good news is the HSC journey is almost at an end, except for one more little thing... the HSC itself!!!. A great future awaits our Year 12 students and I am confident that St George Girls High School has prepared its graduates well to take on the next challenge in their lives and the new opportunities that will follow in 2021 and beyond.

With the current DoE COVID-19 restrictions still in place, the school in consultation with the Prefects and Executive Leadership team have needed to reconsider the planned events for Week 10. The school has done its very best to accommodate as many activities as possible within the guidelines in place and I know that the Class of 2020 will have the opportunity to appropriately and safely celebrate the conclusion of their formal years of schooling.

Week 10 – Year 12 Planned Farewell Activities

The last day of formal lessons for Year 12 will be **Wednesday 23 September**. All students are expected to be in all of their timetabled classes, completing essential coursework and valuable post-Trial revision until this time.

On **Thursday 24 September**, regular timetabled classes will be cancelled for Year 12, however all Year 12 students will need to attend their timetabled Period 1 class for **Roll Call** at the start of **Period 1 (8:45am)**. After Roll Call is completed students will be directed to the Hall for Period 1 and 2, where Ms Abson (Deputy Principal - Teaching and Learning) will deliver important HSC Examination information to all Year 12 students. During **Period 3** students will have the opportunity to prepare for the broadcast of their Celebration (Mock) Assembly. All Year 12 students are expected to remain in the Year 12 Study, Library or Year 12 Quad if they are not required for these preparations. During **Periods 4-6** all students will attend their regular timetabled lessons to watch the Celebration (Mock) Assembly videos in classrooms. During **Periods 7 and 8** all Year 12 students will assemble in the Hall to engage in a range of “warm and fuzzy” farewell activities as a cohort.

On **Friday 25 September** all Year 12 students will participate in a Year 12 Picnic Day at school. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students and their teachers to celebrate the end of their time at St George Girls in a more informal context. I know this will be a very enjoyable day for the staff and students in attendance.

During the first week of Term 4 leading up to the start of the HSC Examinations the Year 12 teachers will be available to continue to provide teaching and learning support for the students during their timetabled periods. Teachers may also select to deliver specific revision tutorials during this week and specific information about these sessions will be communicated to the students directly by their class teachers.

Year 12 Graduation Ceremony Update

After consultation with the students and the staff we have decided to postpone the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony to Term 4 following the completion of the HSC Examinations. The current DoE COVID-19 guidelines in place limits the opportunity to host events on school grounds with parents/carers in attendance. It is hoped that by delaying the Graduation Ceremony to Term 4, there may be a change in the advice provided to schools and the Ceremony can be hosted with parents/carers.

I will continue to provide updated advice and either way the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony will be held on **Friday 20 November commencing at 12:00pm**. I will send out a specific letter with the organisational details for the Graduation Ceremony to parents/carers and students closer to this date. I look forward to celebrating together on this afternoon and I do hope that we will be able to have parents/carers in attendance on this day, however I will continue to monitor the advice and keep you all as up to date as possible.

Year 12 Sign Out Day and Graduation Ceremony Rehearsal

Year 12 Sign Out Day will take place on **Thursday 19 November between 10:00am-2:00pm**. All students will need to also attend a **compulsory Graduation Ceremony Rehearsal on this afternoon during Periods 7 and 8** in the Hall.

I will send out specific information outlining the procedures that need to be followed during Sign Out Day and more specific information about the Graduation Ceremony Gown collection arrangements for students.

Farewell Year 12 Students

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2020 for reaching such an important milestone in your educational journey. I have enjoyed working with you as your Principal over the past six years and I have valued the opportunity to grow and learn alongside you. The Class of 2020 was always going to be a special group of students to me, as we started our St George Girls High School journey together in 2015. I am the only Principal you know and together we have grown to represent and love all that is special and unique about our school.

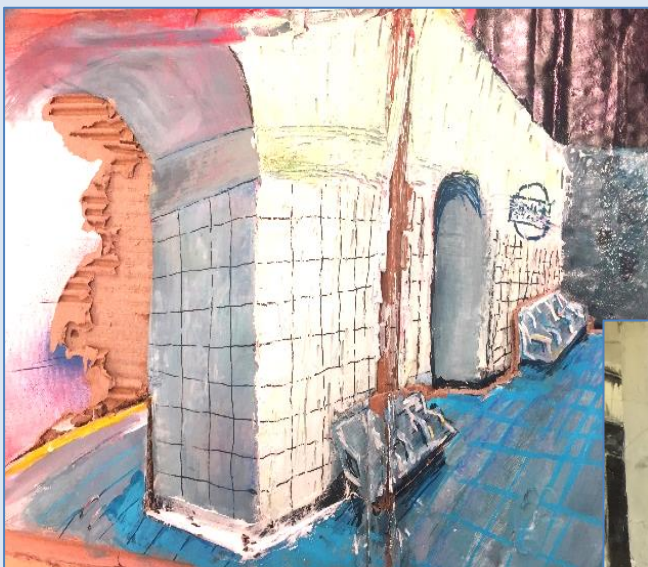
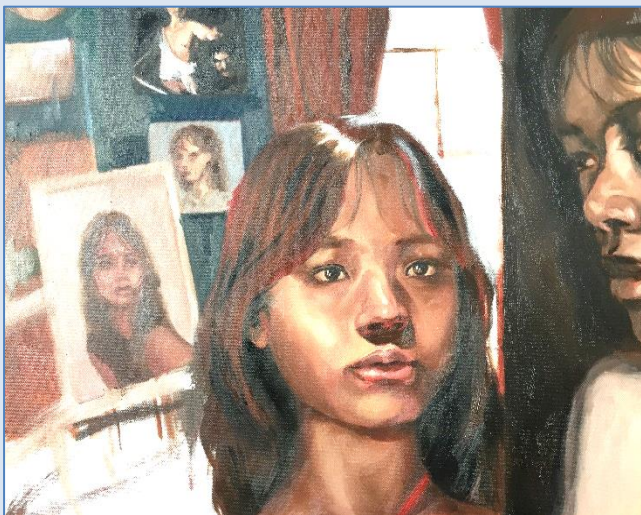
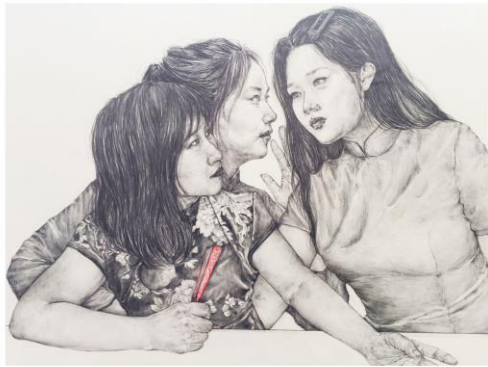
Year 12, we have grown and learnt together. We have learnt that St George is a place where relationships are valued and where students genuinely care for each other. We have created and contributed to a range of quality educational experiences and opportunities that unite us as a learning community and we have developed a school culture that is committed to nurturing the social and emotional wellbeing of students, as well as one that values the importance of growth to achieve improved academic outcomes. I am confident that you will leave St George not only with very fond memories and friendships, but also with the vital skills and mindsets that will allow you to thrive in the global world.

Remember the only person who is truly educated is the one who has learned how to learn and grow. My wish for each of you is that you continue to grow, learn and embrace inevitable change with optimism throughout your lives. Congratulations and farewell Year 12, it has been a pleasure having you as a key part of our school for the past six years. Don't forget to connect back to your old school in the years to come and please think of creative ways to give back to the school and to your fellow St Georgians of the future. Now put all that you know into practice and walk into each HSC Examination with the confidence and belief in your own ability.

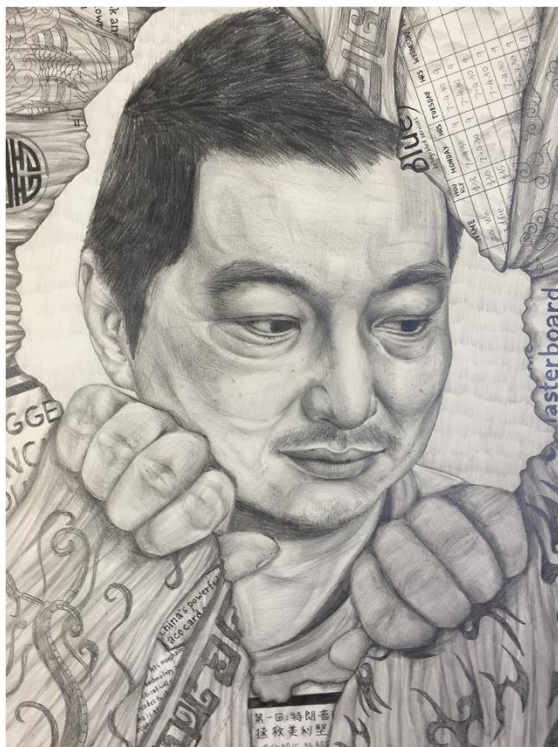
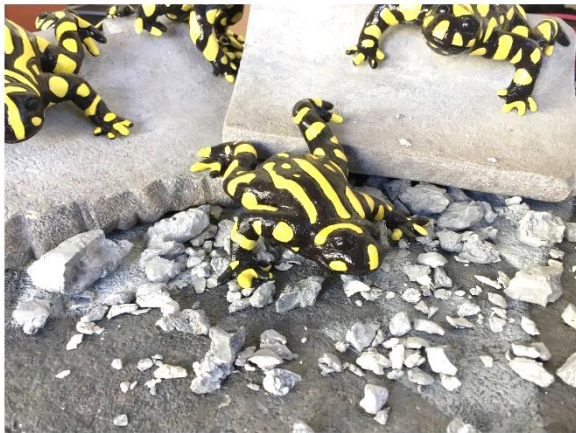
Year 12 Visual Arts Body of Works

Unfortunately due to the updated Term 3 Department of Education (DoE) COVID-19 restrictions in place, the Annual Art Exhibition that is usually scheduled for September will be unable to take place this year to showcase the extraordinary creative talents of the Visual Arts students and our Year 12 students in particular. This is always a highly anticipated calendar event and I am disappointed that we are unable to host this event in 2020. The quality of the HSC Visual Arts Major works created this year are outstanding and I would like to congratulate the students on their effort and also say a special thank you to their teacher Mr Andrew Batten for his guidance throughout this year. I am grateful to Mr Batten who has captured a few images of the 2020 Year 12 Body of Works to share with the community this month.

Year 12 Visual Arts Body of Works



Year 12 Visual Arts Body of Works



Music Soiree

Music Soiree was held on 28 August at school. This important celebration and performance opportunity for our Year 12 students prior to their HSC Performance Examination looked a little different to accommodate the DoE COVID-19 restrictions in place. The Year 12 HSC performance pieces that the students showcased to their Year 12 peers and teachers (with appropriate physical distancing parameters in place) were just outstanding. The students will complete their Music HSC Practical Examinations on Friday and we look forward to receiving favourable results in the coming months. Each year the quality of performance items continue to impress and I would like to thank Miss Ashley Hamilton for her support and guidance to prepare the students for this important component of their HSC Music and Extension Music courses.



SASS Recognition Week

During Week 6 all Department of Education (DoE) schools in NSW celebrated School Administrative and Support Staff (SASS) Recognition Week. This week is dedicated to the committed School Administrative and Support Staff that keep our NSW Public Schools operating so effectively. Our SASS team is at the forefront of all school operations interacting with students, staff, parents, visitors and the community daily. I too would like to thank all the SGGHS SASS team for the quality job they undertake every day to support each of us in our work. On Friday 28 August it was a pleasure to host a special afternoon tea to show our appreciation for the team who make such a valued contribution to the school each and every day.



2021 Subject Selection Process Now Complete

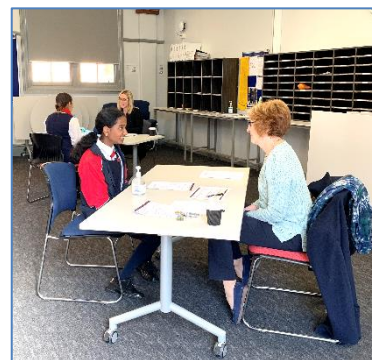


The subject selection process for the 2021 school year is now complete. The final round of subject selection interviews have been completed and despite the changes in how the subject selection process was undertaken this year, it appears that the students were able to make well-informed decisions about their curriculum pattern for 2021.

I have appreciated the support from the Executive Leadership Team and the teaching staff who supported in a range of capacities over the past few weeks to ensure that accurate information and advice was available to support students in making informed subject decisions.



The breadth of curriculum available at St George provides our students with the opportunities to immerse themselves in a range of experiences and subjects, which is so important to support the students in identifying where their particular strengths, interests and abilities lie. The school will now start to formulate the subject lines for 2021 and as always we hope to be able to accommodate most of the student choices within our timetable structure.



Literacy Awareness Week

As part of Literacy Awareness Week held earlier this term, Year 8 students had the opportunity to listen to a talk by Australian Award-winning author Will Kostakis. The students were privileged to listen to the stories behind his books, as well as his journey to becoming a published author. Will was informative, entertaining and very generous with his time and his books. The students were able to purchase books and have them signed as well.

On the same day a smaller group of Year 8 students also had the rare opportunity to participate in a writing workshop with our guest author which proved to be such a valuable enrichment opportunity for our talented writers at SGGHS. I would like to thank the Literacy Team for investing so much of their time to ensure that our school was able to still engage in a number of smaller scale activities to recognise the importance of having an explicit Literacy focus across all of our Key Learning Areas.



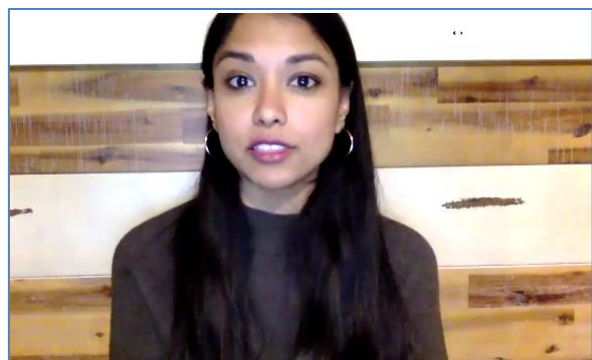
Prefect Self-Care Fair



On Wednesday the 26 August the Prefect Team organised a 'Self-Care Fair' afternoon for their peers at SGGHS. During Period 7 students in Years 7-10 watched a Livestream delivered by SGGHS Alumni Dr Shanta Dey who is now a psychologist and she was able to provide some valuable self-care strategies that students could easily incorporate into their daily routine. Students in Years 11 and 12 watched a Livestream delivered by SGGHS Alumni Caitlin Semsarian, who provided a valuable insight into life after the HSC. It was lovely to have SGGHS Alumni connect back with their school and contribute in such a meaningful way.

The Prefect team in charge of this event also developed a series of short self-care activities and videos that the students had the opportunity to engage with over the

afternoon. This was a highly successful initiative and a very big congratulations must go to the organising Prefects who embraced this challenge with creativity and adaptability to ensure that it was effectively planned and executed.



P&C AGM

On Thursday 27 August, the P&C Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held via Zoom. I would like to thank the outgoing executive committee for their commitment and professionalism demonstrated during their term in office. Thank you to the 2019/2020 President, Mrs Sharon Khan, in particular for her quality leadership of the P&C during this unpredictable period and for her ongoing support towards our school community. I would also like to thank the group of Year 12 parents who have either served on the Executive or who have been so committed and supportive of the P&C during their daughter's time at the school. Their contributions have been so valued and we are very lucky to have had their support over the past six years.

I would like to thank the outgoing group for their service to our school;

President: Mrs Sharon Khan

Vice-President: Ms Tammy Pham

Treasurer: Ms Ann Hoang

Secretary: (Correspondence and Minutes): Pradeep Atapattu

Finance Committee Representative: Mrs Usha Marrett

Event/Fundraising Coordinators: Mrs Cathy Anderson, Mrs Sue Markantonakis

Unfortunately, not all Executive positions for 2020/21 were filled last Thursday, however I am hoping that we will have these positions filled over the coming months by parents/carers who would be willing to support in this capacity. Congratulations to our returning office bearers and we look forward to continuing this productive partnership and working together over the coming year on a range of exciting ventures designed to continue to improve the learning outcomes of the students.

President: Mrs Sharon Khan

Vice-President: Mrs Cathy Anderson

Secretary: Vacant

Finance Committee Representative: Vacant

Event/Fundraising Coordinators: Vacant

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.

- Sarina Sainju in Year 8 is featured in the Australian feature film "Survive or Die" where she plays one of the important roles, as "Maiya". This film is out now and can be streamed on Amazon Prime.
- Congratulations to Caitlin Matthews in Year 9 who broke the school Marathon record at the 2020 SGGHS Swimming Carnival held earlier this year. Caitlin successfully completed 100 laps of the pool. This is a most noteworthy achievement and Caitlin deserves to be acknowledged for the determination and effort she invested into breaking this school record that previously stood at 97 laps.
- Congratulations to all students who participated in the 2020 'Speak for The Planet' Competition. The judges this year were very impressed with the quality of the student submissions and it was so pleasing to have many SGGHS students successfully represented in a range of categories. The winners and runners-up from SGGHS for each category are listed below.



Category	Winner	Runner Up
Art	Vibhasri Balaji (Year 9) Jasmin Wu (Year 8)	Mavis Hong (Year 8)
Writing	Thais Tsovolos (Year 11) Violeta Shopova (Year 11)	
Tik Tok	Anika Tahsin (Year 11)	Angelika Gandarasa (Year 8)
Video	Alina Ruan (Year 12)	Trisha Shankar (Year 11) Karishama Gadgil (Year 11)

I have also included the images of the Art submissions from our winners Vibhasri Balaji and Jasmine Wu.



“My acrylic painting portrays the divergence of two contrasting roads which our whole human race must now choose between. The ominous path on the left symbolises the destructive impact of bad decisions while the bright path leads to a better, more certain future for the planet despite the roots that may stump us early on”

Jasmine Wu

“This portrait shows the life of Mother Earth. Beginning with a peaceful smile in an undistributed oasis into an anxious retorting state, the landscape shows the continuous movement of people developing their world through infrastructure and technology but what we do not realise is we are unintentionally making tough decisions that have the most impact on nature, dragging us into the past.”

Vibhasri Balaji



I wish you all a great final few weeks of Term 3 and I hope you also have a relaxing and safe end of term break. I look forward to working together in Term 4, which commences on **Monday 12 October** for all staff and students.

On a personal note, I will be on extended leave for the next 2 weeks (Term 3, Weeks 8 and 9) as I will finally be moving into our new family home that we have been building over the past few years. Ms Pam Abson will be Relieving Principal during this time and Mr Peter Nousis will step up into the role of Relieving Deputy Principal (Teaching and Learning). I look forward to returning in Week 10 for the final week of the school term and to of course be here to share in the festivities dedicated to the Class of 2020. I know the school is in very capable hands and I am grateful to have such a great team that will continue to work together to ensure that the daily operations of the school continue to be so well-managed.

Ms Betty Romeo
Principal

Deputy Principal's Report – Teaching and Learning

Year 11 students have just begun their Preliminary HSC examination block and will continue with these exams for the next 2 weeks. Students are reminded that they are to be in full school uniform and arrive at school at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. If a student is unable to attend on the day of a scheduled examination due to illness/misadventure, please call the front office who will inform the Year 11 Deputy Principal who will then seek to reschedule the examination to the next available examination slot. A reminder that all documentation, medical or otherwise must be provided and dated to correspond with the task missed.

Year 11 into 12 subject selection interviews were held earlier this term and students will now have the opportunity throughout Week 10 to officially drop subjects and/or pick up HSC extension subjects prior to commencing HSC courses from Term 4, Week 2. New timetables, that reflect all subject changes, will be available on the Sentral Student Portal and will take effect from Week 2 – Monday 19 October 2020.

We have organised an HSC Transition Day for all Year 11 students that will take place on the first day of Term 4, Monday 12 October. A number of sessions have been planned that will include important HSC and NESA information as well as student wellbeing and support. Students will be issued with the 2021 HSC Rules and Procedures Information booklet provided by NESA, we will discuss assessment procedures and issue SGGHS HSC assessment information and provide all students with the Year 12 responsibilities letter. This letter outlines the flexible attendance which Year 12 students are allowed from Week 2 of Term 4, once returning the signed parental permission slip.

Commencement of Summer Uniform – Term 4

The summer uniform will commence first day back next term. Outlined below are the uniform requirements for the Junior and Senior Uniform. If any student is not in full school uniform they should provide a note from their parent/carer to the Deputy Principal to obtain a uniform pass. Any student who does not bring a note from home must obtain an infringement pass from the kiosk. If you need to purchase any uniform items the Uniform Shop opens at Wednesday lunchtimes (1:00 pm to 3:30pm) during school terms.

Junior Summer Uniform

- Tunic (lightweight fabric for Summer)
- White short-sleeved blouse
- White plain ankle length socks
- Black leather flat lace up school shoes
- Sports Jacket – as required
- Jumper – as required
- Blazer – as required

Senior Summer Uniform

- All-season skirt in exclusive St George fabric
- White over blouse
- White plain ankle length socks or black, navy or beige pantyhose
- Black leather flat lace up school shoes
- Jumper – as required
- Blazer – as required

SGGHS Professional Learning – Monthly Update

The staff at SGGHS continue to focus on and value the professional learning opportunities that are provided. Since the last gazette, staff have participated in the following activities:

School Plan Professional Learning

- New School Plan – Situational Analysis Workshop
- NESA HSC Disability Provisions Workshop

Curriculum Professional Learning

- Classical Latin Workshop
- Syllabus Programming for: History, Mandatory Technology, Languages

Parenting Ideas – ‘Insight’ Articles

The first insight article is **Staying the Course in COVID Times**. Encouraging kids to stay the course when the pandemic has denied them access to the classroom, peers and community activities is now a common parenting challenge. This article provides both parents and kids strategies to stay the COVID long course.

The second insight article is **Help Kids Tap Into Their Inner Resources**. Times of hardship, frustrations and difficulties are opportunities for parents and teachers to develop the resourcefulness and inner strength of children and young people.

Reminder – Upcoming Parent Webinar: Teaching Young People About Healthy Relationships

When: Wednesday 9 September 2020, 8:00pm – 9:00pm

Presenter: Collett Smart

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

The voucher and code to access this webinar was emailed to all parents/carers on Monday 7 September.

Study Skills Tip for September – The Power of Collaborative Learning

Learning with other students can be a very powerful way to improve your learning outcomes. You might be sitting next to each other discussing what you are learning, or working together in a group online and sharing your screens, or giving a friend feedback about an assignment. This study skills tip outlines the many benefits to learning to work with other students.

Ms Pamela Abson

Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning

Relieving Deputy Principal’s Report – Curriculum

Farwell Year 12

Congratulations on not only surviving but thriving in your final term of school here at St George Girls High School. There has been laughter, tears, lots and lots of hand sanitiser and tissues but most importantly you have still managed to ensure there has been so much fun.

Year 12 has definitely looked different for you than what you would have imagined it to be. Despite this, you have made the most of every opportunity available to you and have continued to walk the wonderful corridors of St George Girls with your warm cheery dispositions willing to learn and grow and flourish.

Teachers are still tirelessly working with all Year 12 students and will continue to do so right up until the exams commence. Mrs Moncrieff and Ms Dwyer have also been organising some special activities for the last day of this term to ensure that despite it not being Graduation day it will still be a fantastic day full of fun and celebrations for Year 12.

We wish you all the best in your upcoming HSC exams. Use these school holidays wisely to consolidate your knowledge, work on the feedback the teachers have provided and look forward to the exams with confidence knowing you will do your personal best.

Subject Selection Process

Elective subject selection for 2020 has now been completed by all students in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11. Thank you to all Parents/Carers who took the time to go through the presentation that was sent out and we were glad to hear that many of you were able to use the information provided when discussing subject choices with your daughters.

It has been most evident throughout the Subject Selection Interviews that the students have engaged in thorough conversations with their Parents/Carers and Teachers and were extremely confident and happy with the patterns of study they were choosing to engage in. Looking forward to Term 4, Ms Romeo will now

go through the data and work on formulating what subjects will be offered for 2021. At this point no changes will be made to student subject choices next term as the classes are finalised for next year. Any requests to alter any subjects will be considered early in Term 1 2021.

NESA HSC Minimum Standards Tests

This coming Monday 7 September through to Thursday 10 September, all Year 10 students will be completing the mandatory NESA HSC Minimum Standards tests. Every student must sit and complete these tests in order to be able to gain a HSC in 2022.

The HSC Minimum Standard online tests are each 45 minutes long, and include:

- a multiple choice test for reading;
- a multiple choice test for numeracy
- a test for writing (around 500 words) based on a written or visual prompt.

These tests are based around the Australian Core Skills Framework and the minimum standard is set at level 3. This means that students who demonstrate the standard have the basic functional skills used in everyday life, for work and further study.

If there are students away for any of the scheduled test sessions these will be rescheduled and communicated to you by the Deputy Principal before the conclusion of the term. Once all students have completed the tests, results will be communicated to Parents/Carers and Students.

Ms Amber Housego

Relieving Deputy Principal – Curriculum

Student Representative Council

Like most things this year, SRC week was slightly different than usual due to COVID-19 and restrictions that have been put in place. Despite being unable to hold whole school gatherings with anticipated events such as the annual St George vs Sydney Tech game and talent quest being cancelled, it was still a huge success. The theme for SRC week was 'The Decades', where the week saw lots of fun activities to participate in as well as funds being raised to support future SRC endeavours. A big thank you must go to Ms Whitehead who was instrumental in assisting in organising such a fantastic week.

The week started off with a picnic lunch where students enjoyed a lovely picnic on the grass, luckily with sunny weather. Music from across the decades was played in the picnic areas and cold juices and drinks were sold.



Tuesday saw 'old school party games', where a blindfolded obstacle course, musical chairs and egg and spoon races were held and fairy floss was sold.

On Thursday we hosted a decades-themed kahoot where students put their knowledge to the test and won prizes.



Finally, on Friday was the highly anticipated Masked Singer: Teacher Edition held over zoom. Seven talented teachers competed with songs from the decades; but only one could be victorious. Thank you to Mr Charlupski, Ms Dwyer, Ms Hamilton, Ms Fong and Mr and Mrs Moncrieff for taking part and congratulations to the winner Mr Moroney. We are incredibly grateful that you all took the time out of your week to participate.



Thank you to all the SRC year representatives who helped out during the week and the SRC Executive who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organise this week. It was great to see the girls participating in the activities and we hope everyone had lots of fun.

Good luck to all students who participated in The Hachette Australia Prize for Young Writers, as the submission date neared, we saw many entries all of which were great! Below are two submissions from two Year 7 students.

The War

Gunshots echo off the frail, tin wall
bullets dance above, as my tears fall.
The ground shivers making my skin crawl
Why choose here for your petty brawl?

Countless nights of bloodcurdling screams
Will forever haunt my dreams.
Not that anyone will ever care
The grief, pain and fury of which my mind struggles to bear.

One by one,
Flesh collides with bullets from a gun
Streets littered with bodies, piles of a ton
Stop shooting. You've already won!

Silence blankets the horizon,
My fear for a bomb to drop begins to widen.
Nothing but the sun falls,
As lucid moonlight spills down on my shawls.

Dawn creeps up on me,
Today will be the day I will be free.
My long-awaited day of glee.
I will flee.

By Sophie Mak – Year 7

The Da Vinci Code

Holy Grail near ancient Roslin waits
Priory members try to hide the truth
Secrets about Holy Grail awaits
Finding clues and cracking them like a sleuth

All the clues lead to the hidden object
In London lies a knight, a pope interred
Every information they don't neglect
His labour's fruit a Holy wrath incurred

They must open the Priory keystone
Solve the clue, blade and chalice fused as one
The grandmaster has secrets of his own
Decode the mystery, then all is done

The Holy Grail is finally found
Find the truth or the secret will be drowned

By Vivian Ye – Year 7

The Debating Competition

We have also seen the re-imagining of the Debating competition, now conducted via Zoom to ensure the safety of staff and students from both schools. We have begun the season with our Year 9 SGGHS girls competing against Fort Street. The Year 9 Debating Team for 2020 are Marie Sikiotis, Sophie Stevens, Selsabeel Al Hariri, Eliza Ho, Erin Ong-Le and Tasha Miranda

The Year 11s will officially begin competitive debating this Friday. We have grown the team this year and are happy to welcome four new members. The team is looking forward to the challenges of senior debating in this new digital format.

Our Year 10 team got off to an excellent start with a strong win against Ashfield Boys. They are eagerly anticipating their next debate in week 8 and are looking forward to more impressive debating performances in 2020.

All of our competitors are working well as a team, being supportive and positive towards one another. We are proud of our determined students who have been working hard in their free time to be ready for our next opponents.

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

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



The Year 9 Debating Team 2020

On this day, 3 September, 2009

- Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany.
- Sir Malcolm Campbell broke the 300 MPH land speed record.

Semester 2 has been a very busy one for the History faculty and our students. In such difficult times, the classroom has been somewhat of a refuge and I have to take the opportunity to commend the professionalism of the teachers and the great resilience and positivity of the St George students in forging ahead.

COVID has seen us adopt meaningful changes to our practice, a prime example being the use of Google Classroom and Zoom for both teachers and students to participate in professional learning and HSC study sessions offered by the History Teachers Association of NSW. These online sessions provided valuable advice and insight for the Year 12 students who registered for them.

Year 11 students have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their upcoming Preliminary Examinations, with some 30 students recently attending an after-school study session for Modern History. This level of commitment bodes well for their Higher School Certificate and is a prime example of the dedication of St George students. Equally, over 50 Year 10 students attended a study and skills seminar in the school gym in preparation for their Rights and Freedoms source task assessment. The commitment paid off with some excellent results across all 5 classes.

Continuing with the positive theme, the History Faculty thanks and is humbled by the response of Year 11 Ancient and Modern History students who have indicated that they would like to take on the challenging yet incredibly rewarding History Extension course in Term 4. We have two very talented classes who will begin the course at the commencement of Term 4. Students will get to launch their own History Project into any historical debate or issue, with past investigations including evaluations of Chinese Empresses, examinations into the validity of Hip Hop as an expression of the African American Experience and the Japanese Textbook controversy. We congratulate our current Year 12 students who have recently completed their own projects on topics such as photojournalism in war (Sophie Beer) and the erasure of women in the Wild West History of the United States. (Cate Armstrong)

Stay safe everyone and wishing Year 12 the very best of luck as they prepare to embark on the final HSC examinations, reminding them that there is so much that they can do now to ensure success in the coming months. We pass the baton on to you Year 12, give it everything you have and remember, we are always here for you.

Mr Nousis
Head Teacher History

13 July 2020 (Monday), 4.00-5.00pm (AEST)
"Russia and the USSR" (Modern History)

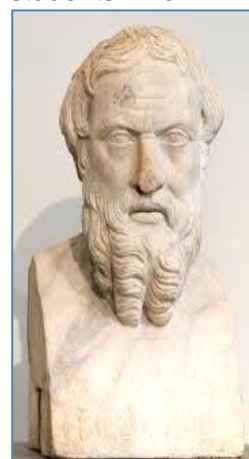
This webinar will provide revision for the Russia and the USSR National Study and offer some ideas for connecting parts of the topic and approaching possible exam questions.

Presenter: Jonathon Dallimore
[REGISTRATION DETAILS HERE](#)

14 July 2020 (Tuesday), 10.00-11.00am (AEST)
"Pompeii and Herculaneum" (Ancient History)

Dr Estelle Lazer will provide an update on what has been happening at Pompeii and Herculaneum along with a report on her latest research.

Presenter: Dr Estelle Lazer
[REGISTRATION DETAILS HERE](#)





It has sure been a while – 2020 has been a rather hectic year and with a significant portion of Term 2 in remote learning and social distancing practices currently in place, Enviro certainly does not look the same. However, despite such challenges, the Enviro Council was able to adapt and for that, I thank the cooperation and hard work of my peers. In fact, in June we were able to hold a completely online Speak 4 the Planet where students from the whole school were able to get creative in categories such as writing, speaking, art, video, drama and even memes and TikToks whilst promoting and learning about environmental sustainability. All entries were submitted for the NSW online Speak 4 the Planet and several of our students were successful in taking out first and second place.

Congratulations to:

Art Category – Winners – Vibhasri Balaji and Jasmine Wu of Year 8 with Mavis Hong placing as runner up.

Writing Category – Winners – Thais Tsolovos and Violeta Shopova of Year 11

Tik Tok Category – Winner Anika Tahsin of Year 11 with Angelika Gandarasa of Year 8 placing as runner up

Video Category – Winner Alina Ruan of Year 12 with Trisha Shankar and Karishama Gadgil of Year 11 placing as runners up.

Each category of the NSW Speak 4 the Planet event was independently judged by experts in each field. On behalf of the school we would like to congratulate these talented students.

The winners and runners up of the Speaking, Art, Writing and Meme categories are invited to participate in the Global Speak for the Planet. I'm sure you will join me in wishing our FIVE contestants luck on the GLOBAL stage of Speaking for the Planet!

In addition, the Enviro Council was also able to take the opportunity to increase our social media presence with our Instagram page @sgghsenvirocouncil where we provide tips, news and updates for anything enviro.

Just recently, we held a “Green Accessories Day”, (albeit rather improvised) as a pandemic safe alternative to our yearly Pearl the Koala Bake sale. I would like to thank everyone for their donations as we were able to raise \$315.00 Thank you!

Now it's already September, and for myself and my Year 12 peers in the Enviro Council, that means our time in office is soon coming to an end – although, that is not to say our passion for the environment will too. Throughout my years in the Enviro Executive Council even since 2017, I have worked alongside some amazing and driven individuals who have taken initiative in supporting environmental sustainability within our school community – from Return and Earn, the Green Day Kogarah Cluster, to the WIRES Fundraiser earlier this year. If I ever return to this school in the future, I hope I will be able to see the various trees and shrubs that myself and peers tirelessly planted around the school on our multiple National Tree Days. Thank you to: Samantha Law, Yuan Tran, Ramisa Quader, Rachel Luo, Vienna Chan, Christine Karabalis, Mehar Luthra, Joy Lin, Rebecca Wu, Idy Zhao, Phoebe Yu, Caoimhe O'Donohoe Deering, Annie Wang and finally to our outgoing President Hannah Yuan and my fellow Vice President Carmen Truong.

As for the incoming President, Aneeta Nelson from Year 11, and Vice Presidents, Michelle Vuu of Year 11 and Eleni Markantonakis from Year 10, I am certain that you will continue to support and elevate environmental awareness within our school community, and I wish you all the best!

In addition, despite the madness of the current year, I would hope that everyone around school has still been getting involved in environmental activities such as Worm Farm, Paper Recycling and Gardening – and I would certainly recommend joining and getting involved in the Enviro Council next year as it is a very fun and enjoyable, although tiring experience! In addition, if Green Day is able to run this year (which at this point in time, is the plan), I would encourage everyone to get involved whether it be through helping out or just enjoying the activities on the day.



Finally, some final words from our outgoing President Hannah Yuan:

It has definitely been an unexpected year as Enviro President, but I am so proud of the initiatives and events we have delivered as a council. It's been a privilege serving as the 2019/2020 Enviro President and I am grateful for the opportunity to have led such a passionate group of students.

I would also like to extend gratitude to Mrs Duffy for always believing and trusting in my ideas and projects. We thank you for your endless dedication and support. Finally, I wish our incoming senior executive: Aneeta Nelson, Michelle Vuu and Eleni Markantonakis all the best as I am confident that they will lead the Enviro Council into another successful year.

And outgoing Vice President Carmen Truong:

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mrs Duffy and the students of the Enviro Executive Council for giving Anne, Hannah and I this honour to lead and help transform the council. I've been so immensely lucky to have worked with all the students of the Council to coordinate events like Green Day and the WIRES Fundraiser and even through lockdown, the various interactive activities on our Instagram page.

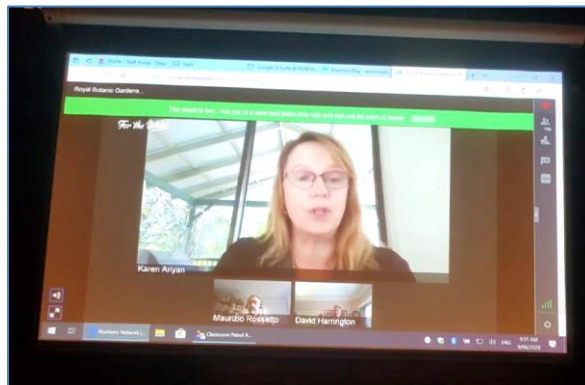
Thank you to Hannah for being our valiant, fearless leader and staying up late coordinating events with me over the phone. Thanks to Anne and Aneeta for being my partners in crime and for so effectively supporting each other, myself and Hannah. Finally, I am so proud of what Aneeta and the rest of the incoming senior executive have achieved as Executives just over the last few months and I know that we'll be leaving the school in safe, green thumbs.

And finally, I thank everyone – students, teachers, Mrs Duffy – for supporting the Enviro Council. I wish all the best to the future of the council and would encourage everyone, especially those who have a passion for the environment or who want to give back to the community to join and get involved in the future!

Anne Chen
Enviro Journalist 2020

Science

Sadly, due to the current restrictions because of COVID-19, a number of planned excursions for Science students have not been able to occur this term. However, Preliminary Biology students have had the opportunity to undertake two incursions as part of their program of study. The first incursion was a live virtual excursion Biological Diversity Day where students joined representatives from the Royal Botanic Garden, Australian Museum and Taronga Zoo to learn about Australian ecosystems. The second virtual excursion was through AUSECO and continued on with the content related to ecosystems. Students worked through a self-paced series of videos and worksheets related to Long Reef platform.



External Science Competitions

Due to COVID-19 the Year 7 to 10 REACH Science Assessment and the Chemistry Competition have been cancelled for this year.

ESSA

At this point, the state wide external VALID exam for Year 8 students will still go ahead in October or November. Stay tuned for further details as they come to hand.

Subject Selection

Year 10 and 11 were briefed on the senior subjects offered in Science. Year 10 can choose from Biology, Chemistry and Physics for Year 11 and 12. In Year 12 those students doing at least one of the Sciences can also take the new Science Extension course. This course has been described by NESA as an apprenticeship to becoming a scientist. Students cover topics previously only studied in a university Science degree. These include the history and philosophy of science, hypothesis testing, statistics, ethics, experimental design, research technique and report writing. Students conduct a major research project and produce a research paper using a large data set. Any students interested in these subjects should look at the Year 10 Science intranet page for links to information and flyers summarising the details of each course.

Technological and Applied Studies (TAS)

The TAS faculty were extremely excited this term to update the sewing machines in our classrooms that were over a decade old. Thankfully we had Bev Barter from Busy Bee Sewing at Penshurst come in to show us all the new features of this sewing machine. The new Janome DC2150 is now in both rooms with students already having the opportunity to experience a machine that is sewing their projects beautifully for them with lots of exciting stitches and features to try out – including a one touch buttonhole function. We can't wait to see the beautiful textile products that the students create with these new machines!



Year 7 Technology Mandatory – A Smart Farmer Incursion

Jess and Luke from A Smart Farmer brought their mobile dairy classroom to St George Girls High School to give Year 7 a hands-on experience with the agricultural industry. Jess introduced daily life on a farm and told the students about all the different ways they manage the farm and the quality assurance practices used on their farm in Camden. Luke demonstrated how cows are milked using technology and automation, and the students even had a chance to milk the cows the old-fashioned way! The students were also shown how milk is processed to make the dairy products we buy at the supermarket and made feta cheese, butter and buttermilk.



Parents and Citizens' Association

It's over halfway through Term 3 already. Last meeting we heard from Mrs Michelle Batten, the school counsellor and it is of great comfort to hear that the girls wellbeing is looked after so professionally. Covid-19 has presented many challenges and the school has provided an all-round stable and supportive environment for our girls to continue to grow, learn and be resilient in their developing teen years.

The P&C also held their AGM online last month which was an impressive feat in computer logistics. The P&C have elected the same President, myself to continue the work of the P&C for the school. We have a new Vice President Cathy Anderson. Thank you Cathy. We have vacancies for Secretary, Treasurer, Finance officer and Event coordinator and are seeking willing volunteers to join our committee. If you are interested in any of these positions I'm happy to provide more details. Please consider being an active member of the P&C at St George Girls. We value all parents input to support our girls education. Our next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 24 Sept 2020. Online details will be given closer to the date.

Sharon Khan

President, Parents and Citizens'

sggh.pca@gmail.com

Mothers' Committee

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

Unfortunately, we were unable to have an in-person meeting this month due to restrictions on parent meetings at school. We hope that these will be lifted in term 4. At this stage, we intend to have our next meeting in the school library, but if that is not possible, we will hold the meeting via Zoom.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 4 November at 10am in the School Library.

Uniform Shop News

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

There will be some minor price rises in Term 4, so all the more reason to get in now!

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

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

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

With best wishes to you and your family, especially our Year 12 students and parents,

Kim Le

President, Mothers' Committee

Contact Ph: 0421 849 753

Cathy Anderson

Uniform Shop Coordinator

Contact Ph: 0423 533 855

St Georgians

St Georgians here we are already in Spring; doesn't the time fly! The St Georgians wish all students soon to be sitting exams the best of luck. We also extend our farewell to all the Year 12 girls, and we're sure bright futures await you all, no matter which paths you may choose to take. A St Georgian's versatility and tenacity will always stand her in good stead.

We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Reunion Luncheons in the future – a great way to ensure you regularly keep up with your school friends' adventures in life.

Join us on Facebook. We have formed a "closed group"– simply search Facebook for The St Georgians and choose The St Georgians closed group and ask to join.

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

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