

St George Girls High School

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Monthly Bulletin

December 2021
Vol. 25 No. 8



2022 Commencement Dates

Friday 28 January

School Development Day 1

Monday 31 January

School Development Day 2

Tuesday 1 February

Years 7, 11 and 12

Year 10 Peer Support Leaders

Wednesday 2 February

Years 8, 9 and 10

Uniform Shop School Holiday Opening Days 2022

Saturday 15 January

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday 22 January

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Friday 28 January

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

Thank You to the SGGHS Community

Welcome to the final Gazette correspondence for the 2021 school year. We have together navigated through another unpredictable and disrupted school year for students, families and educators – a year like no other in our living history, as we needed to respond to a further period of extended remote learning operations in Semester 2 and manage the roadmap back to face-to-face learning for staff and students over recent weeks.

I would like to thank all of our supporters. Our parents, teachers, students and community members, who have this year continued to express their genuine gratitude for the way the school managed learning continuity and responded to the changing guidelines, advice and protocols that were delivered from the Department of Education and NSW Health.

As the 2021 school year draws to a close, we look forward to and are planning for, a more settled and uninterrupted school year ahead. We will emerge from the current pandemic stronger, knowing that the current restrictions in place this term and into next year will eventually be dismantled.

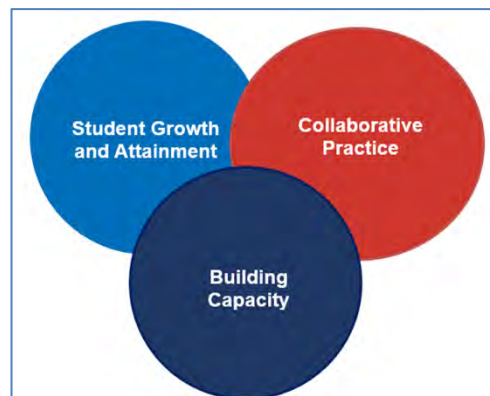
We will emerge in 2022 with a renewed commitment to the vision of our school, an even stronger feeling of school community and connection to each other, and with an even greater determination to serve each our learners with a renewed purpose.

This year I have witnessed us appreciate each other's strengths, learn from each other, and lean on each other more than ever before in order to get through a tumultuous year. This respectful interdependence is the source of our greatness and what makes our school such a special place to work and learn.

This has been a pivotal year as the school has laid the foundations for its 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) that was officially launched at the start of Term 2. We are committed to our renewed school vision statement that explicitly states:

St George Girls High School is a supportive learning environment that empowers high potential learners to explore their talents and maximise their academic and personal growth within a culture of high expectations. The school community values high impact teaching and collaborative practice to build the capacity of students to be self-regulated and reflective learners.

We also know that our 3 Strategic Directions, Student Growth and Attainment, Collaborative Practice and Building Capacity that underpin the 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP), will allow the school to tackle our identified school priorities that emerged from a rigorous school self-assessment, situational analysis and External Validation process undertaken earlier this year. The school has narrowed its focus to these three areas to provide the platform to effectively tackle these important priorities. The work that has commenced this year and that will intensify over the next 3 years, will sustain a school culture of high expectations and a commitment to continuous school growth and improvement.



Can I now take a moment to acknowledge the work of our dedicated teaching staff at St George Girls High School. Teachers who are passionate about the values of public education and have strived to provide our students with the very best learning experiences and opportunities all year.

In 2021 our teachers have continued to go above and beyond to safeguard learning continuity, as we transitioned from face-to-face learning, to an extended period of online learning then back to face-to-face learning again. The SGGHS teachers have worked tirelessly to make sure learning was not compromised and that our learners remained engaged, motivated and connected with their peers.

I must say that having taken a moment to look back over the year and actively reflect on 2021, I can confidently say that we should feel very proud of our collective efforts to safeguard the health, wellbeing and educational continuity of our learners under what can only be described as the most unusual and unpredictable set of circumstances.

Well done to the SGGHS school community, we made it through stronger and more importantly thank you to our students for continuing to enrich our school. It has been an absolute pleasure working and learning alongside you this year. I now look forward to a more normal school year ahead that will hopefully will see many of our usual school routines, activities and highly anticipated events resume.

Year 12 Graduation Ceremony

On Wednesday 8 December we were able to successfully host our Year 12 Graduation Ceremony and Garden Party on school grounds in accordance with the DoE Covid-Safe plan for school graduations. The afternoon was a perfect celebration and it was so nice to share this with the teachers and family members of the Class of 2021. The Year 12 Graduation Ceremony looked very different this year and we had the event live streamed across a number of venues across the school.

Despite the necessary Covid-Safe guidelines and regulations that needed to be adhered to, on all accounts the students and their families had a very enjoyable afternoon that appropriately celebrated this important milestone in their educational journey.

Somehow, every graduating class has a distinctive group personality, and having had the privilege to watch this cohort navigate through the past 6 years, and the last 20 months more specifically, I can say with conviction that this for the Class of 2021 is one of resilience, agility, tenacity, good humour, compassion, a care for others along with a genuine affection for each other.



The class of 2021 has earned their place in history as a collective group of tenacious, talented and self-regulated learners who have demonstrated that they can handle anything that may be thrown in their path. May our graduates draw on the experiences they have had this year to make a quantifiable shift and difference in the world they have now inherited and will have the opportunity to contribute to.

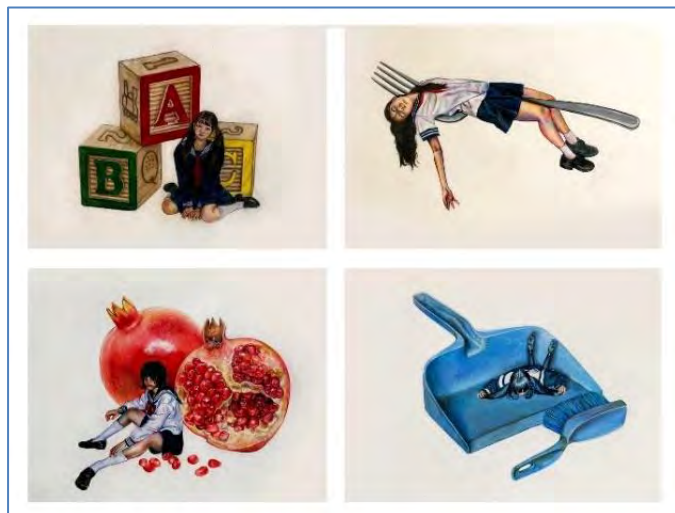
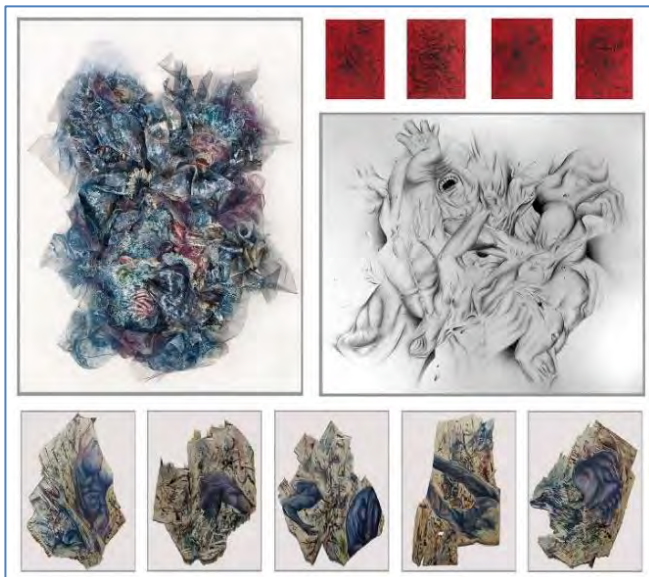
Congratulations Year 12 on behalf of all SGGHS staff, students and community members, and remember the best is yet to come for each of you. You have successfully made it through an incredibly tough year with determination, and more importantly thank you for enriching our school over the past six years. It has been an absolute pleasure working and learning alongside you.



Some Great HSC News Just In...

We have received the welcomed news from NESAC that Year 12 Visual Arts student Catherine Weng has had her Body of Work titled 'Entropy' selected for inclusion in ARTEXPRESS. This is great news for our school, Catherine and our very talented Visual Arts teacher Mr Andrew Batten, who has provided endless support, guidance and advice to encourage the creative talents of the students studying Visual Arts during this disrupted and challenging year.

I am also pleased to acknowledge that Yuna Toda's Body of Work titled 'In Solitude' has been selected for inclusion in the Art Rules 2021 exhibition to be held from Saturday 11 December 2021 – Sunday 16 January 2022 in the Broadhurst Gallery at Hazelhurst Arts Centre. Marina Kawabe has also had her HSC Body of Work titled 'Ecchi' was selected for inclusion in the ZOOMERS exhibition to be held from Saturday 2 April 2022 – Monday 13 June 2022 in the Main Gallery at Hazelhurst Arts Centre. Congratulations to our very talented Visual Arts students on this most noteworthy acknowledgement of their skills and creativity.



Congratulations to Annabelle Cao and Violeta Shopova who were nominated for ENCORE, the showcase of a selection of performances and compositions by Higher School Certificate Music students. This is an incredible achievement as it is such a prestigious honour to be nominated at this elite level in NSW. Thank you to our Music teachers Miss Chapman and Miss Hamilton for their work nurturing the talents of our Music students.

I was very proud to receive the news that 3 of our Year 12 Drama students have been nominated for OnSTAGE, a selection of performances and individual projects from Higher School Certificate Drama students. A very big congratulations must go to Jasmin Small, Rana Oral and Alisa Greyze and to their Drama teacher Ms Wright, who has guided the creative skills of her students so well throughout the year.

Congratulations to Catherine Weng who has also had her Major Project in Textiles and Design selected for inclusion in Shape 2021. Shape is an exhibition of outstanding Major Projects developed by HSC Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles and Design students. The exhibition will be at the Powerhouse Museum from Friday 4 March to Sunday 14 August 2022.

These exemplary student achievements are particularly significant as they have been realised in what has been such a challenging year for students undertaking practical subjects with so many changes and restrictions applied.



Green Day

On Wednesday 10 November St George Girls High School hosted its annual Green Day. I am always a very proud Principal to observe our students unified in their commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability. I was so pleased that we were able to host a Covid-Safe Green Day event that allowed us to interrupt the regular school routine for one day with the sole purpose of placing environmental awareness front and centre of our thinking. Green Day allowed us to acknowledge the collective responsibility we all share to protect and safeguard our precious local and global environment.

Green Day is a perfect example of collaboration between staff and students within our school. I would like to thank Mrs Duffy for her passion, drive and personal commitment to environmental educational awareness programs in our school.

To co-ordinate the workshops and activities for student on the day is no easy undertaking and this year all activities needed to be planned in line with the DoE guidelines in place, adding a further organisational and logical element into the mix. I know we all appreciate the passion and energy that Mrs Duffy and the Enviro Council Executive and Committee members invest into preparing for this day. A big thank you also to the SGGHS staff who assisted in a range of capacities over the day and to the students who prepared Green X talks and presentations in the afternoon.

The students embraced the day with their usual St George energy and flair and I would like to extend a special thank you to the Enviro Council, in particular its Executive members who worked so diligently to support the running of Green Day. Thank you to our school photographer Caitlin Matthews who has captured the following images from the day to share with the community.



Presentation Day

Our Annual Presentation Day was held on Thursday 9 December on site in the School Hall. This year the Presentation Day Ceremony ran in a similar format to last year as we required to run a series of separate assemblies to celebrate the achievements for each cohort group.

The cohort assemblies were a wonderful opportunity to formally celebrate the effort and commitment that has been invested into the learning process and to celebrate our student successes together. A year of hard work is worth celebrating and to achieve educational excellence during what has been a very challenging set of circumstances is a most noteworthy achievement.

Congratulations to all of the students who had their efforts across a range of domains recognised and celebrated at Presentation Day and I have shared a few images that were captured throughout the day below.



Unfortunately, as parents and family members were not permitted to attend the Presentation Day assemblies for each cohort group, we had the assemblies professionally live streamed on the day and a recording of each assembly will also be made available to students and their parents/carers to view at a convenient time and to keep as a record of their daughter's 2021 achievements.



I am very grateful to Miss Dwyer, Ms Di Leo, Mrs Louskos and Mrs Rahmi for the work they have undertaken to co-ordinate and plan this highly anticipated whole school event and thank them for accommodating the added logistical requirements needed to host such a large-scale school event in consideration of the current NSW Health and DoE guidelines in place.

A special mention must also go to the very skilled Mr Moroney and our live stream broadcasters, who worked behind the scenes to ensure that we were able to professionally live stream and record our Presentation Day assemblies to share with our school community.

I do look forward to being able to take this event back to the Sydney Town Hall next year and have all our students, parents and community members in attendance together. I have already locked in our booking for the SGGHS Presentation Day 2022 to ensure that this occurs.

Important Dates to Note

Thursday 16 December is the official last day of the school term for students. Reports for Years 7-9 will be issued on the Student Parent Portal on this day. Year 10 were issued with their semester 2 reports on Friday 26 November and our Year 10 students have completed their Personal Best Report Interviews on Monday 29 November.

I am also aware that some families are planning to commence their vacation earlier than the date above as they are either travelling overseas or interstate. If you wish your daughter to be granted leave for family or personal reasons, please indicate this to me in writing as soon as possible. Please also state the expected date of her return to school in 2022, so that we retain her position at St George. Please be aware that there are important protocols in place regarding interstate and international travel. If you are travelling during the holiday period please check the NSW Government website for the most up to date travel advice and requirements. [NSW COVID-19 travel restrictions | NSW Government](#)

The 2022 school year commences with two School Development Days for staff on Friday 28 January and Monday 31 January. Students in **Years 7, 11 and 12 (as well as any Year 10 Peer Support leaders)** return on **Tuesday 1 February** and all remaining students in **Years 8, 9 and 10 will return on Wednesday 2 February**.

Farewell to SGGHS Members of Staff

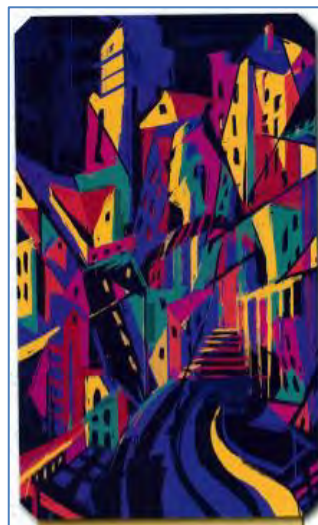
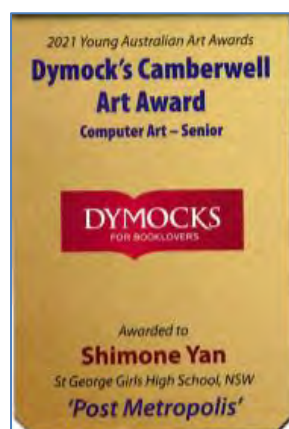
Each year, we farewell valued members of staff who have made a valuable contribution to the school. At the end of 2021, we farewell Mrs Torrisi (TAS), Ms Meg Hockey (Social Science), Mr Charlupski and Mr Invernon (PDHPE). These temporary teachers are highly skilled and respected educators who have invested significant effort into serving the learners at St George Girls High School. I wish these exceptional teachers all the very best for the next chapter in their careers and thank them very much for the quality educational experiences they have provided for the students at our school during their time at our school.

Our Head Teacher Wellbeing, Mrs Williamson will be on extended leave in 2022. I know that Mrs Williamson has exciting plans in place for next year leading into her official retirement and we wish her all the very best for the year ahead, knowing that she will pop in from time to time throughout 2022.

Student Achievements

One of the best parts of the school day as a school Principal is receiving correspondence or advice about the range of successes your students achieve. I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge some of the student achievements I have been informed about before the year draws to a close.

- Congratulations to **Shimone Yan** in Year 12 who was selected as one of the winners in the 2021 Young Artists Awards. Shimone was the winner of the Dymocks Art Awards for her entry "Post Metropolis" featured alongside this commendation.



- The Arts Unit contacted me to share the success of **Molly Maguire-Ward** in Year 8 for her contribution to the recent NSW Public Schools Digital Drama Ensembles Monologue Project for the NSW State Drama Festival.

- Congratulations to **Caitlin Matthews** in Year 11 who received 1st Place for her entry titled “Accustomed Absence” into the 2021 Bayside Photography Competition. The theme for this competition is 'Aspects of COVID'. It was an opportunity to record how individuals and families have coped with the ups and downs of living in a pandemic. Caitlin’s winning image entry in the high school category is included below. This is noteworthy achievement and we are very proud to see our SGGHS official school photographer have her technical and creative skills recognised and showcased in the local community.



- Well done to **Zaina Siddiqui** in Year 11 who has been participating in the Generation Grit Project at Gallipoli i-Youth Centre. This is a year long project funded by the COMPACT grant from Multicultural NSW and focuses on building resilient leaders capable of promoting a harmonious multicultural society and being the amplified voice for productive leadership. As part of this project Zaina had the opportunity to attend a leadership camp on 3 December-5 December. The project manager has contacted the school to advise that Zaina has been a wonderful participant in this project over the year, excelling in both contribution and leadership.
- Congratulations to **Jasmin Wu** in Year 9 who was a distinguished gold medallist for her category in the Seattle Bach International Piano Festival competition 2021. She was also awarded 1st place in her senior category for the 2021 Robogals Science Challenge Robogals Science Challenge Awards Ceremony 2021 and received a high distinction for the National Physics Olympiad competition as a result of intense studying during lockdown this year. These are all most noteworthy achievements outside of school and certainly deserve acknowledgement.
- Congratulations to **Suenna Jeong** in Year 9 who has had her work selected for exhibition in Operation Art an initiative of the Department of Education in collaboration with Sydney Olympic Park Authority. The Operation Art program encourages young people to create artworks for children in hospital to enjoy and this is such an important initiative to have our students participate in.
- Congratulations to the following students in Years 9 and 10 who have been awarded a Premiers Reading Challenge Medal this year;
Year 9 - Adeeba Rahman, Augustin Hardjawana, Iris Yao, Isabella Lee, Isabelle Jiang, Jennifer Luong, Katherine Morris, Kelly Chen, Lydia Allen, Micayla Metlege, Natasha Wijoyo.
Year 10 - Erin Ong-le, and Natasha Metlege
- **Chloe Khan** in Year 11 was one of only 100 students selected to attend the NSW Engineering Summer School between 5-10 December. This is a great achievement and I know that Chloe would have represented our school well during her invaluable time at the summer school.
- Congratulations to Year 12 students **Clare Jenkins** and **Samantha Edvell** who were successfully selected as Finalists in the Top 50 Year 12 Trailblazer Awards. These significant awards identify and celebrate students who use their final years of school to make a positive impact in their community. There is no doubt that our 2021 school Vice-Captains are deserving finalists for this recognition.
- Congratulations to **Carey Tan** in Year 8 who is the recipient of a prestigious 2022 Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship. The selection process to determine the successful candidates this year was incredibly competitive with 556 applications received from 232 schools - representing every State and Territory except the ACT.

Congratulations

I would like to congratulate the following students for achieving a Gold Certificate indicating that she has received thirty Merit and/or Participation Certificates:

Isabella Zhu of Year 9.

Grace Chen, Samantha Edvell, Katerina Kalogerakis, Maggie Lin, Amy Vu, Catherine Weng of Year 12.

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

Ann Anish, Zoya Aziez, Alice Bi, Zoe Lee, Antonia Lin, Eliana Ugto, Rachel Weng of Year 7.

Ashwini Bineesh, Emma Chen, Karina Dogra, Rumaysa Farouqee (2), Roisin Joono (2), Jay Kim, Emma Langley, Ingrid Lee (2), Molly Maguire-Ward, Sienna Mahmoud, Sophie Mak (2), Monique Motto, An Ong, Bernice Ou, Tisha Panya, Kate Rai, Sreyoshi Samadder, Bella Soegiono, Riya Suvana, Carey Tan, Jasmine Thoroughgood, Sydney Tran-Pham, Katelyn Tu, Tiantian Yang, Vivian Ye, Helena Zhang (2), Mingchan Zhou of Year 8.

Dana Arenas Valentin (2), Carrie Chen, Helen Guo (4), Tanuri Jayatilaka, Tessa Jolly (3), Phoebe Kha, Chloe Liu, Hailey Lo (2), Jessica Nguyen, Sai Vibha Pothuganti, Adeeba Rahman, Abeeha Siddiqui, Evelyn Tian (2), Azkiya Umam (2), Gigi Wu of Year 9.

Houda Hamadi, Bethany Hong, Aazeen Khan (2), Sue Lee, Esther Park, Ananya Sharma, Afrina Tanisha, Christy Wu, Cindy Xie, Grace Zhao (2), Lillian Zhong of Year 10.

Tina Liang (2), Irena Liu of Year 11.

Astrid Brahe (2), Grace Chen (3), Dana Choi (3), Navneeta Das, Bonnie Deng, Connie Du, Carol Farhoud, Zahra Fathullah, Elizabeth Feletar (4), Melina Frate, Rubia Gill, Becky Hang (4), Sabrina Hou (5), Annabel Huang (2), Salina Huang (5), Catherine Huynh (2), Clare Jenkins, Sophia Jiang (4), Katerina Kalogerakis (3), Tabia Khaleque (3), Rokika Khondaker, Erandi Kuruppuarachchi (4), Olivia Lee (2), Kyee Lei, Olivia Li (3), Annabel Li, Sylvia Liang (5), Maggie Lin (2), Angelika Low (4), Leanne Masum (5), Alisa Mo (4), Aneeta Nelson, Alicia Nguyen, Jacqueline Oyog (2), Sophie Park, Oditi Sarkar, Samantha Stanford (4), Thais Tsovolos, Arrianna Villena (3), Cecilia Wang, Tracey Wang, Catherine Weng (2), Eva Wu (2), Michelle Xu (3), Gloria Yan, Mandy Yang (3), Michelle Yihm, Michelle Zeng (9), Annie Zhou (2) of Year 12.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of the school community a wonderful festive season and a very happy new year. We have certainly had an interesting and challenging year in 2021 and I am already focused on the opportunities and success that await us in 2022. I am sincerely humbled as always, to be the Principal of this fabulous school and I very much look forward to working alongside you all in 2022, when we will commence our next body of important work that features in our 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP).

Thank you for your continued support, happy holidays to all and I look forward to seeing you all in 2022 to do it all again. Take care.

Ms Betty Romeo
Principal

Deputy Principal's Report – Teaching and Learning

Year 12 have now completed their HSC examinations, officially signed out of school and enjoyed the celebrations on Graduation Day. I am sure that, after the year that 2021 has been, it is a very joyous time but also a very reflective time as Year 12 look back on all they have experienced and accomplished during their time at SGGHS. I would like to congratulate all of Year 12 for the most outstanding way they embraced this year and the constant changes and challenges that came their way. Not only did they display so much emotional and mental strength and adaptability, but also school spirit and pride. To see the way Year 12 embraced the opportunity to return onsite for a few weeks earlier this term and be able to enjoy the school farewell, mock assembly and Year 12 Picnic Day together, supporting and encouraging each other, was a true representation of what it means to be a St Georgian.



There were certainly some anxious moments for me as the HSC started, hoping that there were no issues presented with COVID, but knowing that we had many contingency plans in place was reassuring. Now, with the HSC exams a few weeks behind us, it is easy to look back and feel much relief that the exams ran smoothly, the students became very familiar with their COVID protocols before and during exams, and after the many delays they have finally finished and can now look ahead to receiving their HSC results and ATAR in January.



By far, the best celebration of all was Year 12 Graduation Day – a wonderful celebration of achievements, successes and friendship, and you only had to look around at the Garden Party with the girls dressed in their wonderful graduation gowns to be proud of all that Year 12 have accomplished together and the bond they share as the Class of 2021. I would like to personally thank Mrs Jodie Jospe, Year 12 Adviser, for her support, encouragement and commitment shown to Year 12, especially during their last few terms of high school and Mrs Torrisi for her hard work and support as Assistant Year Adviser this year. As the very proud Deputy Principal of this exceptionally talented and outstanding group of young women, I look forward to hearing of their HSC successes early next year and I wish them all the most rewarding and fulfilling life in whatever the future brings.

Years 7 – 9 Reports

Reports for Years 7-9 will be available via the parent portal on **Thursday 16 December**. It is important that students and parents take the time to carefully read their teachers' comments and to take their advice about strategies for improvement in 2022. This month's study skills tip will provide some thought-provoking questions to consider as you reflect on your performance and achievement in 2021.

Parenting Ideas – 'Insight' Articles

This month's articles from 'Insights' are:

'Respond honestly to dishonesty.' Honesty is the best policy we know, but it's not always easy for children and young people to own up when they break the rules.

'Parent self-care matters.' Taking care of their own wellbeing will help parents become the best parents they can be, providing real-life examples for their children to follow.

Study Skills Tip For December

This month's study skills tip is **'Making the Most of the End of Year School Report.'** With the end of the year fast approaching it is a good time for students to reflect on their school report – focus on the teachers' comment, not just the grades, and establish some clear goals for next year.

SGGHS Professional Learning – Monthly Update

As we head into the final days of the year and look back on what professional learning has taken place within the school - at faculty and whole school levels - it really does provide a true picture about the ongoing commitment and flexibility displayed by the staff at SGGHS. Since returning to face-to-face learning, not only have staff embraced opportunities to complete online subject specific courses, but they have also proactively engaged in faculty planning and programming across Stages 4-6. The professional learning listed below is an indication of the importance and commitment shown to the ongoing development of knowledge and skills to support quality teaching and learning. Staff are currently completing the online CPR and Anaphylaxis modules in preparation for the face-to-face sessions to be conducted on the final School Development Day of the year.

School Plan Professional Learning

- What Works Best – Maximising Learning and Impact
- Teen Anxiety
- Peer Support Training
- NSW DoE Wellbeing Service Review
- SIP Reflection Webinar for School Leaders

Curriculum Professional Learning

- Workshops and Courses: Biology,
- Syllabus and HSC Programming and 2022 Planning: Languages (Latin, French, Japanese), History, Music, Mathematics, Textiles, Food Technology, Visual Arts, Science

Back to School – 2022 Key Dates

Below is an outline of the starting dates for students returning in 2022. All students in Years 8-12 will assemble at the start of the day (8.45am) in the Gym, for a brief welcome back followed by a meeting with their Deputy Principal and Year Advisers.

- Friday 28 January – School Development Day 1 for Staff
- Monday 31 January – School Development Day 2 for Staff
- Tuesday 1 February – Years 11, 12 return to school, 8.45am start (Gym)
- Tuesday 1 February – Year 7 first day of High School, 8.45am start (Hall)
- Tuesday 1 February – Year 10 Peer Support Leaders
- Wednesday 2 February – Years 8, 9, 10 return to school, 8.45am start (Gym)

As this is the final Gazette for the year, I would like to thank all staff, parents and students for the ongoing support throughout what has certainly be a very long and challenging year for all. I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday and I look forward to working with you all in 2022.

Ms Pamela Abson

Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning

Deputy Principal – Year 8, 10 and 12

Year 12 2021 Graduation



Year 12 2021 Graduation



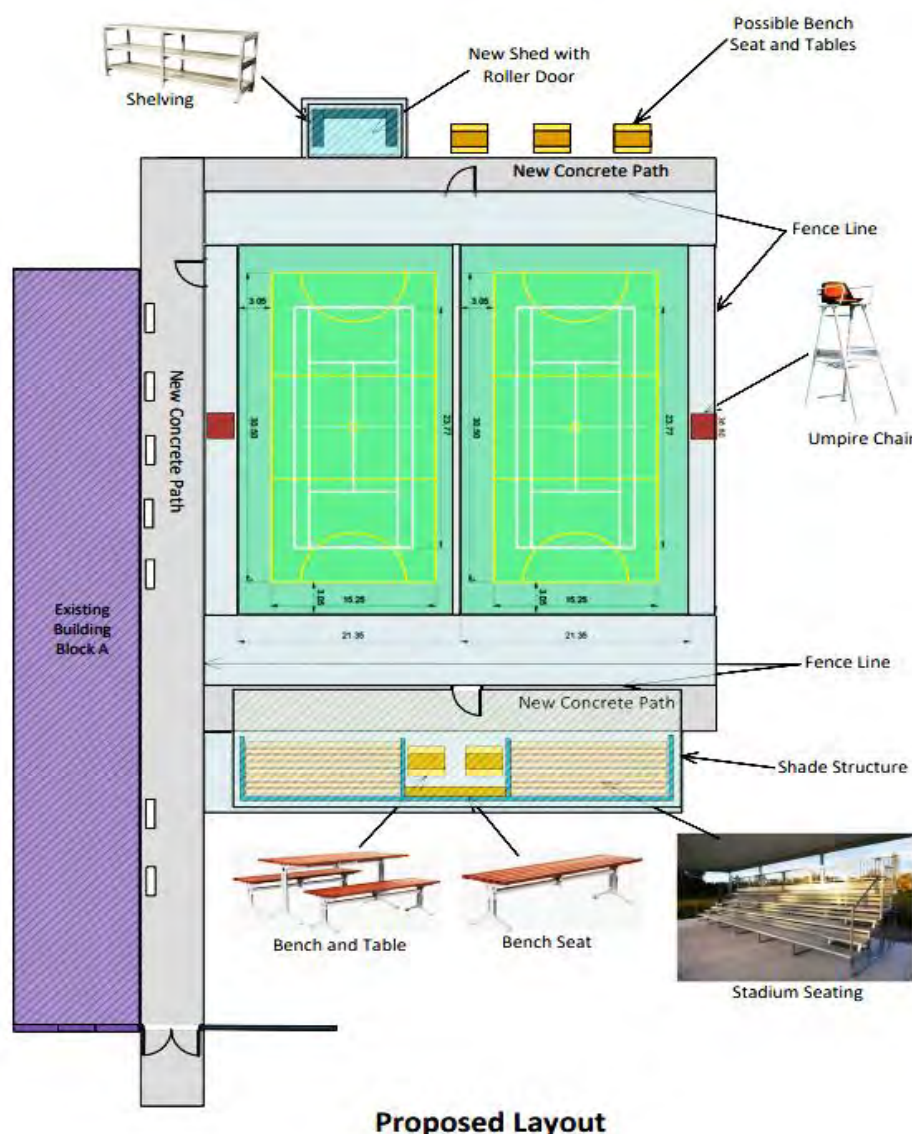
Deputy Principal's Report – Curriculum

What a year 2021 has proved to be. It was the year we thought we would all return from a disrupted 2020, look forward to recommencing activities that had been put on hold and enjoy a productive and innovative year ahead. Didn't plans change! Although 2021 has been different to what we had hoped and planned for, we end the year confident that it has still been a highly productive and successful year of teaching and learning and that there are many great things occurring at SGGHS to celebrate.

SGGHS Outdoor Sports Court Upgrade Update

The Department of Education (DoE) tender process has now concluded for the SGGHS outdoor sports court upgrade project. This is a joint undertaking between the school and the DoE following our successful application for the Metro Renewal Grant on offer. The cost for this significant upgrade of school facilities has come in over the anticipated budget allowed, due to the significant amount of construction and excavation needed to create a quality purpose built outdoor sporting facility and we have been so grateful for the in principal support offered from the P&C to assist with the funding some of the shortfall for this exciting project. The sport court will be accessed and utilised by all students at the school and the small increase to the P&C contribution in the annual school contributions will support with raising the funding needed to ensure that this project can get underway in the new year. The diagram below displays all aspects of the sport court and facility upgrade that have been included as part of the tender.

Last week, we had some exciting news from the DoE asset management team overseeing this project that the demolition work is scheduled to commence over the 6-week school holidays. The projected time frame for completion is approximately 4 months which will mean the courts should be available for use in Term 2, 2022. I look forward to sharing some progress shots and updates with the school community when we return back after the holidays.



Year 11 HSC Assessment Block 1 and Personal Best Report Interviews

Throughout Week 7 and 8, Year 11 students participated in their first school-based HSC Assessment Block, completing tasks across many subjects. The students were prompt to the assessments, thoroughly engaged in their tasks and are now eagerly looking forward to receiving teacher feedback to guide their holiday revision work. As this was the first formal assessment block Year 11 had participated in, it was fantastic to see how prepared they were and approached all tasks with great maturity and effort. This sentiment was also echoed by the staff who met with Year 11 during the Year 11 Personal Best Interviews. The interviews provided students with a great platform to talk about their reflections from their Preliminary studies and encourage the formulation of new goals to guide progress in their HSC studies. It is great to see our students not hindered by the challenges that have passed but are now genuinely focused on progress and the achievement of their personal best in the year ahead.

Year 10 completing HSC Minimum Standard Tests

During Week 9, Year 10 students had the opportunity to complete the mandatory NESA HSC Minimum Standard Online tests for Reading, Writing and Numeracy. Student participation across the three days was outstanding and as a result, all students who sat each of the tests, successfully demonstrated the HSC minimum standard. The results for each completed test have now been released by NESA and were emailed to students last week. For those students who were unable to participate in the test sessions, a rescheduled session has been arranged in Week 11 to ensure completion before the conclusion of the term.

As the end of year approaches, I would like to thank all staff, students and parents for your support this year and wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break and a well-earned rest. I look forward to an exciting and productive 2022, with better times ahead for us all.

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

Green Corner



Fact: Wear do face masks and plastic gloves end up if dropped on the street – “when it rains the gloves and masks will eventually end up in the sea,” – so be mindful that you dispose of your masks and gloves in a bin. Cut the loops so animals do not become strangled.

Green Day 2021

St George's annual **Green Day** has always been an exciting event on the school calendar. The 13th annual **Green Day** was held on the 10 November 2021, and despite the sombre weather and COVID disruptions, the day was still one to remember. Our SGGHS Enviro Council is a team of passionate students who have, for many years, worked towards promoting and fostering environmental sustainability through accessible means. Of course, all the credit

goes to this wonderful team and Mrs Duffy for coordinating all the **Green Day** organisation behind-the-scenes. Being involved in the planning process ourselves, we were able to see first-hand the amount of effort and number of arrangements that have to be made weeks beforehand to ensure **Green Day** can run seamlessly. Jashan Singh, the Enviro Council President, also needs to be recognised for the countless hours that she spent keeping the rest of the Enviro Council Executive organised.

A total of 20 x two hour workshops were delivered with each year group focused on a different theme, which were delivered by the Enviro Council Executive and a few other passionate and enthusiastic students' in Years 9 to 11. These students provided great leadership in delivering a workshop on various environmental issues.

Year 7 learnt what the Enviro Council was all about with hands on activities such learning how to garden, set up our worm farms and the benefits of being sustainable. They even painted environmental messages on rocks.

Year 8 learnt about bees, their importance to the environment and why they are disappearing. This was supported with a hands on workshop making a native bee hive out of recycled materials.

The Year 9 cohort had the opportunity to learn some fun, eco-friendly DIYs, including how to create a lip scrub and upcycle. This was supported with a presentation on Marine Biology and the importance to the health of the planet.

Year 10, students completed the comprehensive WIRES course, where they developed an understanding of Australian Wildlife. As facilitators for a Year 10 WIRES workshop ourselves, we were excited to see all the student engagement and enthusiasm.

Recess and lunch were also times where students were able to show their support. Thank you to everyone who made a gold coin donation for wearing mufti, purchased a succulent or fairy floss.

After lunch, the annual Green X Talks were held. Students viewed the videos produced by 6 students from Years 7 to 11 of them presenting their GREEN X Talk about an environmental topic they'd like to bring the attention of their peers. Voting then commenced to find the speech students thought was the most thought provoking; Congratulations to Tanisha Iqbal of Year 10 for taking out the prize for this prestigious competition!

Due to COVID restrictions there could not be a live Green X Talk – hence the videos.

Once again, we'd like to send our gratitude to the Enviro Executives and to Mrs Duffy who so diligently prepared and planned out engaging activities for Years 7-10, as well as other dedicated students who volunteered to assist the Enviro Council on the day. We'd also like to thank the students of SGGHS and all teachers who supervised workshops and helped the **Green Day** facilitators run the day's activities so smoothly.

Akshara Yadem and Houda Hamadi Year 10
Enviro Journalist for the Enviro Council Executive

Green Day 2021



Social Science

E-Commerce with 8 Commerce

When back in the classroom, our teachers made up for the disruption with some more engaging activities. In the concluding semester, Year 8 Commerce have been learning about e-commerce and the creation and running of online businesses. To celebrate the end of the unit, the students in Ms Hockey's class created their own bath bombs to market for their imaginative online businesses. With all the colours of the rainbow and different scents, the students were ready to promote their goodies to the world. Some of the students developed their marketing promos with upbeat tunes, whilst others used graphics to promote their businesses on Instagram pages.



Competition Geography – Nationwide

Funded by the faculty, all Geography students in Years 10 to 12 tested their geographic skills and knowledge against schools from around Australia in the **2021 Australian Geography Competition**. With over 73,000 students from 727 schools across Australia entering, the results gave teachers an external benchmark as to how students were going in areas of the course. The competition aims to encourage student interest in Geography and reward academic excellence. In the words of the competition's national co-ordinator, *"Geography is such an important subject because it develops in students a holistic understanding of the world around them, and their place in it"*.

All pupils received a **certificate** ranging from the award of **participation** up to the **top 1%** depending on their level of performance. Certificates were issued by the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association who were supported by the University of Melbourne and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

St George Girls clearly have many students who performed at a very high level. Three students in particular obtained results that placed them in the top 1% of all candidates. One such student, Jessica Wang, did so well in the competition that she was considered for selection in the competition's Geography's Big Week Out, where the top scoring students from Year 11 in each state and combined territories are invited to participate in an annual 6-day event focusing on fieldwork, spatial technologies and analytical skills.

The following students in the following years should also be commended for their effort and achievement:

Year 12

Distinctions were awarded to Bonnie Deng, Kelly Pan, Amy Vu and Mandy Yang.

High Distinctions were awarded to Tammy Lee and Jasmin Small.

Year 11

A **distinction** was awarded to Cecilia Chan.

Year 10

Distinctions were awarded to Vidhi Amin, Shelly Chen, Amanda Cho, Gabrielle Ciu, Sabrina Deng, Evalyne Duong, Alyssa Gunawan, Jacqueline Han, Jennifer Leung, Caitlin Matthews, Sophia McLean, Maysa Oukrit, Esther Park, Anika Prasad, Jacinta Samera, Samaira Sehgal, Daanya Sudesh, Larissa Vongsuvan, Melody Wang, Breena Woodbury, Silvia Zhou and Aizah Zuhair.

High Distinctions were awarded to Ruby Easton, Julia Hoang, Janice Lin, Alexandra Baeha, Bethany Hong, Chelsea Hong, Julianne Liwanag, Zara McNally, Erin Ong Le, Adelle Ruys, Sanavi Sanap, Joy Shi, Sophie Stevens and Christy Wu.



Entrepreneurial Spirit

In connection with the **Preliminary Business Studies course**, appreciation should be given to the coordinator, Mr Georgiou, for facilitating the school's entry into multiple entrepreneurial challenges run by external bodies.

Throughout 2021, students participated in several business planning competitions to develop their skills in teamwork, problem solving and communication, including the ability to effectively pitch a new business idea to potential investors.

In the process, numerous groups from SGGHS qualified for the finals in each of these competitions, attracting personal commendation, accolades for the school and prize money. The enthusiasm and engagement of students along with their teacher was patently clear and they are to be congratulated.

Business Educators Australasia Plan Your Own Enterprise Competition

Tiffany Zhu, Lucy Cai, Disha Balumuri, Jessica Soo, Fiona Zhu and Kieu-An Nguyen finished 3rd in NSW in Division 2 (group entries) for their business Water Tag, producing a range of products (bottles, backpacks, filters and jugs) to provide clean water to tourists, bushwalkers and households lacking access.

Agnes Tjokrosetio, Venus He, Ryfah Mohsin, Emilie Young and Tina Liang also qualified for the NSW Division 2 finals for their business HairBae, designed to produce adjustable hair ties.

University of Newcastle Business Plan Challenge

Sophie Chronis, Beryl Li, Alicia Tang, Joanne Ngo, Angela Du and Bella Nguyen qualified for the Grand Final for their business Amber Jewellery, which planned to produce safety devices disguised as jewellery and accessories.

Generation Entrepreneur School Entrepreneur of the Year Competition

Tina Liang, Stella Serrao-Smith, Aneesa Sukkarieh and Emilie Young qualified for Round 2 of the national competition for their business ErgoSlide, focusing on the concept of producing affordable ergonomic backpacks.

Hayley H Chan, Hayley L Chan, Anna Cheng, Stephanie Todorovski, Allison Wu and Kylan Xie have progressed onto the national finals for their business Clubsafe, producing a range of cups, glasses and accessories to help bars and clubs combat the issue of drink spiking.

Economics Enrichment

Organised by Ms Sucur throughout the year, Economics students participated in several events that provided subject specific enrichment. These included the 2021 Economics Literacy Centre (ELC) HSC Economics Student Conference; the 2021 HSC Study Day Series presented by Aurora College; the 2021 UBS Economics HSC Economics Day; and the 2021 University of New South Wales (UNSW) Virtual Live Information Session.

ELC HSC Economics Student Conference

This virtual conference featured presentations by leading economists and experienced Economics teachers, including: Mr Tom Rosewall – Acting Head of Economics Analysis at the RBA, Mr Craig James – Chief Economist of CommSec, Mr Tim Riley – Director of the ELC, and Mr Peter Kennedy – Head Teacher at Castle Hill High School. Each of these presentations provided invaluable insight into a range of syllabus issues in addition to resources and slides. Topics discussed ranged from 2021 global and domestic economic conditions to Australia's fiscal policy and contemporary budget outcomes. There were also specific presentations on unemployment and external stability.

HSC Study Day Series presented by Aurora College

This virtual session featured a panel of highly experienced teachers in addition to a presentation by Sydney Morning Herald's Economics Editor, Mr Ross Gittins. Students were provided a study guide and resources that addressed key areas of the syllabus with a focus on addressing HSC questions. This study series provided added information on how to maximise HSC marks. Topics ranged from 'Moving up a Mark Range' and 'The Global Economy' to 'Economic Issues, Policies and Management'.

UBS Economics HSC Economics Day

Due to the disruption caused by COVID-19 this annual event was delivered through a series of educational videos which students were able to access in their own time. The videos were delivered by Australia's leading economists, economics editors, strategists and professors. Presenters included Mr Ross Gittins, Mr George Tharenou – UBS Head of Australia and New Zealand, and Ms Rachel Fitzpatrick – RBA Economist. Students also were able to access a panel discussion with highly experienced Economics teachers and markers – who provided strategies on how best to approach the HSC Economics examination.



UNSW Virtual Live Information Session

Selected students from Year 11 and 12 participated in two live sessions organised by University of New South Wales. The sessions included presentations from UNSW expert panellists, Professor Gigi Foster and Dr Scott French, as well as student ambassador Harrison.

These presentations provided students with an awareness of the university's Business School and the courses it offers. Students were provided with an opportunity to directly ask these experts pertinent questions. All students who participated in these sessions asked questions and many saw it as an opportunity to obtain guidance on a tertiary course in Economics.

After-School and Holiday Workshops + Mentoring

Many thanks go to faculty members who kindly gave up their time during holiday periods and afterschool to deliver workshops and supply additional academic guidance to students enrolled in senior subjects like Economics and Legal Studies. Particular appreciation also needs to be extended to the many Social Science teachers that have given up their time to act as mentors to Year 12 students throughout 2021.



Senior Geography Excursions

11 Geography

Our Year 11 Geography experienced a field trip to Como, to investigate the intertidal wetlands ecosystem, and the impacts of humans on the ecosystem. Supported by the Georges River outdoor education centre, the students were able to perform some water and soil testing, as well as investigate various impacts on the wetland environment. Students were accompanied by Mr Walters, whose time and organisation as the faculty's senior Geography coordinator were very much appreciated.

12 Geography

Despite COVID-19 lockdowns having an impact on our student's capacity to do fieldwork, the girls were fortunate to be able to attend two trips in 2021.

Bate Bay Coastal Ecosystem

In February, the students investigated the coastal dune ecosystem and investigated the natural and human impacts on this ecosystem at risk. Led by Mr Walters, they were able to explore from the remnant sand dunes behind Boat Harbour and the developments at Greenhills through to the beaches of Wanda, Eloura, North Cronulla and South Cronulla.

Managing to escape the storm clouds, it was a good experience to physically inspect this impacted ecosystem.



Great Barrier Reef

A highlight for Year 12 Geography was the field trip to Cairns from 23 – 27 April.



Along with pupils from Fort Street High School, our students had an opportunity to experience first-hand the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest, both World Heritage Sites.

During this action-packed trip, the students visited Fitzroy Island and snorkeled on the fringe reef surrounding the inner island, with an outer reef boat trip to snorkel at two dive locations.



The students also visited James Cook University to view the research done on venomous marine creatures including stonefish, box and Irukandji jellyfish. After this, our geographers left with a clear understanding of why it was necessary to wear full body suits on the reef.

In addition to the reef, students also visited the Rainforest Skyrail, Kuranda Village and Barren Falls. The group certainly experienced the full 'rainforest' effect with the magnificent Barren Falls in full flood after the deluge of rain preceding and during the trip.

The faculty and students wish to thank Mr Walters and the students and staff at Fort Street High School for making this enjoyable education experience possible.

Parents and Citizens' Association

It's almost the end of Term 4 2021. The year has practically flown by. We thank Ms Romeo, the Executive and the Administration and Support Staff for all their hard work throughout the year. We thank all the teachers for their wonderful teaching support and flexibility especially during lockdowns.

We farewell our Year 12 young women and their families and wish them success in their future endeavours. We also take this opportunity to welcome our new Year 7 girls and parents to the school. Although we were not able to hold Orientation Day in person we still intend on holding our annual Welcome BBQ on Friday 4 February 2022.

Thank you to all parents who have contributed to the P&C meetings and events throughout the year. Please consider attending our next P&C meeting at 7pm on 24 February 2022 to hear more about what's happening in the school. All parents are welcome. Have a safe and happy summer holiday.

And don't forget 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
Parents and Citizens'
sggh.pca@gmail.com

Mothers' Committee

President's Report

We held our final Mothers' Committee meeting for the year on 8 December. It was great to be able to have the meeting in the school library again, after holding so many meetings by Zoom this year.

We thanked Mandy Nguyen, who has been very busy packing new uniforms for collection from the office. It will be great to see our 2022 Year 7's and Year 10's wearing the new school uniform from February next year. We would like to remind all students to purchase their new school socks online in the next few days as these are a compulsory part of the uniform for all students from the first day of the new school year.

We farewelled Marianne Skinner, who has been a regular meeting member over the past six years, and whose daughter has now completed her HSC. We wish our Year 12 students all the best for their HSC results and for their future lives outside SGGHS.

Next year will be the final year for several other mothers whose daughters are completing Year 12 in 2022. To keep the tradition of the Mothers' Committee at SGGHS alive, I urge more mothers to join us to make new friends, learn more about what is happening at the school, and to perhaps volunteer some of your time for the benefit of the school community.

Our first meeting for 2022 will be on Wednesday 2 February in the school library. In the meantime, enjoy the holidays and stay safe.

Cathy Anderson
President
Mothers' Committee
Ph: 0423 533 855
Phil.anderson@optusnet.com.au

Vice President's Report

SGGHS Uniform Shop News – Online

<https://schoolshoponline.net.au>

From the Uniform Shop, we would like to thank you for your patience whilst we developed and launched our new online uniform shop. Many of you have already made purchases and have reported having a positive experience with the quick and easy to use interface, and efficient pick up service offered.

We appreciate that the 2021 school year has flown by, and COVID restrictions have impacted us in different ways, and as such we are offering a few last minute pick up and exchange days during the school holidays in January.

In accordance with the latest Department of Education COVID-19 Safe School Operations model, we will be open on;

Saturday 15 January from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday 22 January from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Friday 28 January from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

This service is for pick up and exchange only, and as such, students will not be permitted to try uniforms on. To ensure accurate sizing, please check your daughters measurements by referencing the sizing chart on the online store, before placing your order.

A reminder that the new style SGGHS uniform is only available for purchase by Year 7 and Year 10 students, and the current uniform is on sale at discounted prices, presenting significant savings to families.

For those parents that have requested postal delivery, thank you for your patience, your items will be posted in early January.

If you have any questions or require assistance with your order, please feel free to contact Mandy Ngyuen at sgghsuniform@gmail.com

Thank you Mandy for your dedication in creating and operating the new SGGHS Uniform Shop.

With best wishes to you and your family,

Nadisa Milo

Vice President and Uniform Shop Coordinator

Contact Ph: 0404 424 364

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

St Georgians

As the 20201 School Year draws to a close, The St Georgians would like to congratulate the students and staff of St George Girls High School on their excellent achievements throughout the year. Well done throughout what has been another unprecedented year of COVID restrictions, closures and with remote learning, online teaching and working from home.

The St Georgians would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Complimentary Life Membership

Each year a representative of The St Georgians has the privilege of attending the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony where they present a complimentary Life Membership of The St Georgians to the School Captain. We warmly welcome Alannah Ajami to our association and look forward to seeing her at our functions in the future.

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.

TheStGeorgians@hotmail.com

Kim Archibald
President, St Georgians
0410 582 636

Heather Jennings
Secretary
9501 4641

Coming Events

Tuesday 14 December	Gazette issued on school website and emailed to parents and students
Thursday 16 December	Final Day of Term 4.
Friday 17 December	School Development Day

Commencements Dates for 2022

Friday 28 January 2022 – Staff Only

Monday 31 January 2022 – Staff Only

Tuesday 1 February 2022 – Years 7, 11 and 12 and Year 10 Peer Support Leaders

Wednesday 2 February 2022 – Years 8, 9 and 10

**It is important that payment for excursions is made to the Finance Office or
Online prior to the due date.**