

# St George Girls High School

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Monthly Bulletin

March 2021  
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### Parents & Citizens' Association Meeting

Thursday 25 March  
Online Meeting Via Zoom  
7pm

### Parent Teacher Evening Years 7 and 12

Tuesday 30 March  
3:30pm – 6:30pm

### Walkathon

Wednesday 31 March

### Athletics Carnival

Thursday 29 April  
Sylvania Athletics Track

### Commencement of Winter Uniform

Monday 3 May

### Mothers' Committee Meeting

Wednesday 5 May  
Library  
10am

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

It has been a positive and more usual start to the 2021 school year and over the past 6 weeks and it has been refreshing to see more of our usual school activities underway. This month's Gazette will proudly showcase and report on what has been happening at SGGHS and it is these activities that makes our school a great place to learn.

### HSC Excellence Assembly

It was a pleasure to welcome back to SGGHS our 2020 HSC Distinguished Achievers who achieved personal excellence and extraordinary results across the full range of HSC subjects on Thursday 18 February at the HSC Excellence Assembly.



To achieve excellence in the Higher School Certificate is the persistent result of always striving to do better. As an educator with over 20 years of service experience, I can confidently state that safeguarding educational success is a shared commitment between dedicated school leaders and teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents/carers who all share in and support a common culture of high expectations.



High achievement always takes place in a framework of high expectations and educational success is not the sole result of natural talent and ability alone. It is an attitude, the result of deliberate intention and the product of a high expectations culture and this was celebrated throughout the ceremony.

It was great to connect back with our top performing students who achieved HSC success last year, along with their very proud parents and family members. I would like to thank the St Georgians for generously donating the prizes for this occasion and a special vote of



thanks must go to Mrs Margaret James, Treasurer of the St Georgians who joined us as our special guest and who made the presentations to the Award recipients.

Working behind the scenes to plan and organise the HSC Excellence Assembly was Mrs Nardene Dodd. I would like to thank her for managing the necessary preparations to have our special guests, graduates and their families attend this important celebration. A special mention must also go to Mr Moroney, Mr Cowper, Miss Hamilton and the CAPA technical crew who managed the Live Stream allowing us to broadcast this special assembly to our students in Years 7-11 across the school and to our parents/carers who were unable to attend the assembly.



## Swimming Carnival

The 2021 Swimming Carnival held on Wednesday 10 February was a great whole-school event. The staff and students thoroughly enjoyed their time at the carnival and it was a successful and highly enjoyable day for the school community.

I am pleased to report that the winning House for this year's swimming carnival was Allunga on 954 points. The next 3 placings were as follows;

2<sup>nd</sup> – Mitamit on 895 points.

3<sup>rd</sup> – Larool on 842 points.

4<sup>th</sup> – Mirrabooka on 590 points.

It was great to see the impressive levels of student participation in both championship and novelty events on the day. I would like to thank Miss Papas who has compiled the results from the carnival to report to the school community. The talented students certainly displayed their swimming skills on the day and I would like to congratulate the following Age Champions and Runner Ups for 2021.

**12 Years Age Champion:** Eliana Ugto

**12 Years Age Runner Up:** Emma Sun

**13 Years Age Champion:** Crystal Kwok

**13 Years Age Runner Up:** Fiona Su

**14 Years Age Champion:** Joey Lu

**14 Years Age Runner Up:** Bonnie Wu

**15 Years Age Champion:** Nicole Yu

**15 Years Age Runner Up:** Gabrielle Ciu

**16 Years Age Champion:** Chloe Xu

**16 Years Age Runner Up:** Jean Beare

**17+ Years Age Champion:** Catherine Weng

**17+ Years Age Runner Up:** Laetitia Cooper





A very strong St George Girls swimming team attended the Zone Swimming Carnival on Friday 26 February and Monday 1 March held at Roselands Swimming Pool. A more comprehensive report will follow in the PDHPE Gazette contribution.

We wish all of our swimmers the best of luck at the Regional Carnival and I look forward to hearing about and celebrating their success.

### **Enviro Council Leadership Day 2021**

On Monday 15 February the Enviro Council participated in a leadership training and planning day organised by our Enviro Council teacher co-ordinator Mrs Duffy. The students engaged in a range of activities and discussions throughout the day and I know they have begun to plan a suite of great initiatives to enhance the quality of school life for the students, with a particular focus on environmental awareness and sustainability. I was so impressed to see the level of enthusiasm and engagement on display by the students and I am looking forward to working together with the students to support some of their creative and clever ideas over the year.



## SRC Representatives 2021

It is with great pleasure that I officially announce that the following students have been elected into the SRC Executive positions for 2021;

**President:** Aneesa Sukkarieh

**Vice-President:** Anna Cheng

**Secretary:** Zaina Siddiqui

**Treasurer:** Hayley Chan

**New Student Contact:** Catherine Vuong

**Community Liaison Officer:** Lara Murphy

I would like to thank the outgoing Executive Samantha Edvell, Felicity Luong, Alannah Ajami, Michelle Yihm and Jacinta Low for doing such a wonderful job in each of their respective roles over 2020.

I would also like to officially announce and congratulate the following students on being elected as the 2021 SRC Year Representatives;

### Year 7

Emma Sun, Jialu Liu, Elizabeth Suto, Samantha Lam, Bianca Nguyen and Mirha Abbas.

### Year 8

Ashna Dhital, Ashley Webster, Raha Yu, Ester Hyun and Salam Khalil.

### Year 9

Joey Lu, Mavis Hong, Vicasini Carthigeyan, Dana Arenas Valentin and Elly Miyakis.

### Year 10

Corynne de Vocht, Diana Rubalskaya, Erin Ong-Le, Amelia Lee and Sanavi Sanap.

### Year 11

Katherine Elliot, Sophia Kim, Jenny Lee, Kieu-An Nguyen, Amara Randhawa and Jashan Singh.

### Year 12

Navneeta Das, Jacinta Low, Leanne Masum, Kelly Pan, Zainab Safi, Tazmin Sultana Thais Tsovolos and Jenna Yan.

The SRC representatives will be formally inducted into office at our special SRC induction assembly on Monday 29 March. Taking on any leadership role comes with a sense of enhanced responsibility and possibility.

On Thursday 25 February the newly elected SRC representatives participated in their 2021 planning day. The students had a highly productive day where they planned a range of initiatives and activities for the students at SGGHS.

I would like to congratulate the students who are about to start their leadership journey for 2021 and I look forward to working with this very talented group of students over the year.



## Dragon Pride Day

On Thursday 4 March the Prefect body hosted Dragon Pride Day which is a day dedicated to enhancing school spirit and raising awareness about the variety of groups, clubs and opportunities on offer at St George Girls High School.



I would like to congratulate the Year 12 Prefects for co-ordinating such a fun and festive day for the school community to enjoy and I would like to thank all of the students who organised stalls and activities for the students to engage with during lunchtime. It was great to see the students also dress up in school colours for the Mufti Day.

The sense of school spirit was obvious during the lunchtime activities and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to visit the stalls and enjoy the student musical performances that were taking place.



## School and Subject Contributions 2021

I wanted to thank our school community for supporting the school through their swift payment of the school and subject contributions for 2021. Reminder invoices will be sent home to families who may have missed the 1 March deadline. Schools do rely on the support from their community to continue to provide the quality educational resources and experiences for the students and I certainly appreciate the support from the families that have already paid their fees for 2021. I would like to remind families that as has always been the case, if any parent or carer would like to apply for financial assistance, they are welcome to contact me at school at any time.

## Renewed School Uniform Update

After a number of meetings held with the SGGHS school uniform designers at the end of last year we are now well-placed to start to share the design concepts that have been agreed to that reflect the feedback received from the student and parent school uniform survey results. The next step is to create samples of the refreshed SGGHS school uniform and make any final adjustments prior to production.

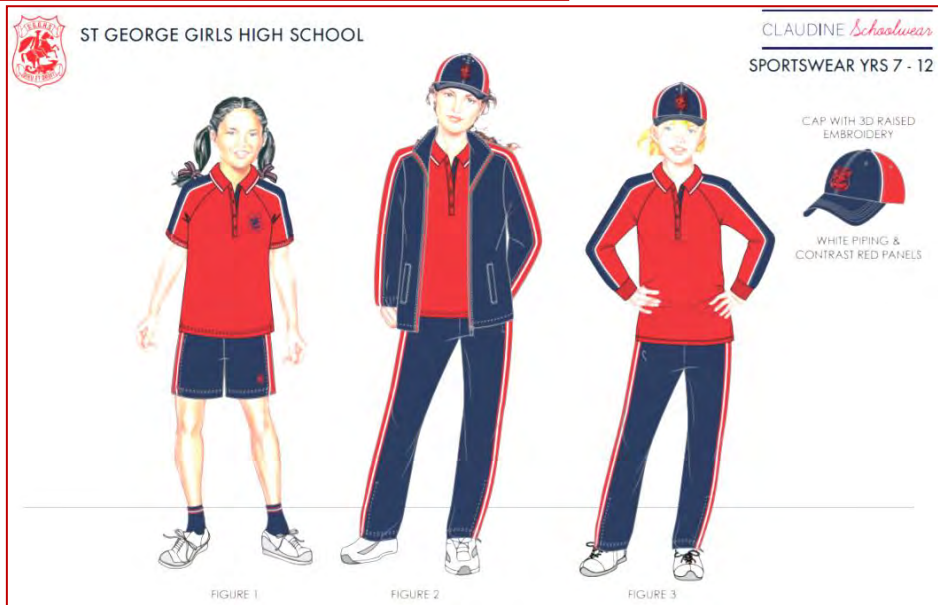
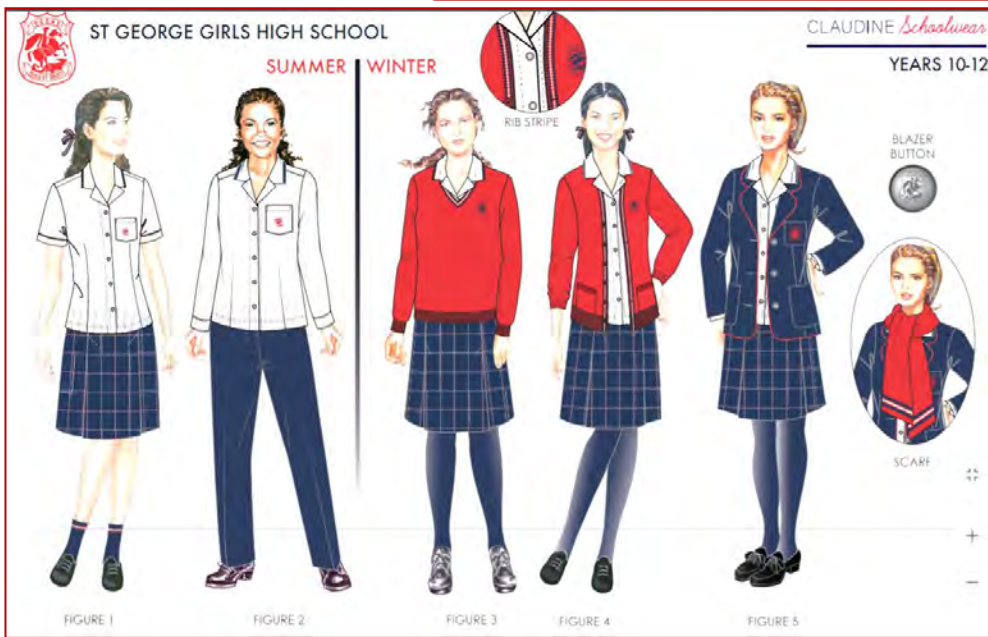
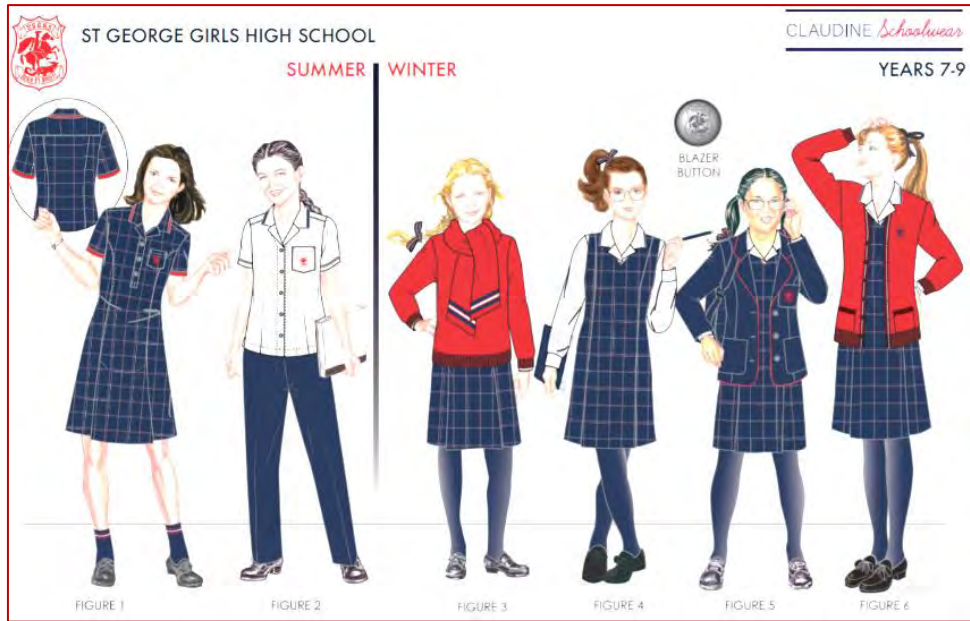
I am pleased to report that the design concepts agreed upon certainly reflect a more refreshed and updated look, while also maintaining comfort, durability and cost considerations. I am excited to finally see the time invested into the consultation and design process behind the scenes realised and I am sure that the refreshed look will be well-received by the community.

The school is planning to phase in the new uniform from 2022, commencing with the junior uniform in Year 7 2022 and senior uniform in Year 10 2022.

I have shared the designs with the staff at the start of the year, parents/carers at the first Mothers' Committee and P&C meetings of the year as well as with the Year 9 students, who will be the first existing cohort to transition into the new senior uniform from 2022. The school has also made the decision to move to one uniform designer and supplier to mitigate the variance in uniform items and supply/stock issues that have been identified by the Uniform Shop operators in the past.

I have shared below the design concept images for the junior, senior and sport uniforms below for the community to view.

While many of the existing elements that are much loved by the students remain, a few enhancements have been included such a new summer and winter tunic for the junior students that are distinctly different from each other, the change in colour for the jumper to the school red, the introduction of a cardigan and a re-design of the sport uniform both in colour and fit.



## Walkathon

On Wednesday 31 March the annual St George Girls High School Walkathon will be held. This is always a very special and unique day for our school and the staff and students always have a great day together. The organisation for this year's Walkathon will be slightly different to that in the past to accommodate the DoE COVID-19 guidelines for whole school activities. The students will still participate in a supervised walk, however the activities usually undertaken at Peter Depena Reserve will now take place at the school.

This highly anticipated school event highlights the real sense of school spirit that exists at St George. Such events are only possible because of the quality students we have at the school and this event showcases the very best of St George. Thank you to the Walkathon organiser Mr Moncrieff and the Year 12 Advisor (Mrs Jospe) and Assistant Advisor (Ms Torrisi) for their support in organising this activity for us all to enjoy. A very BIG thank you to our Year 12 students who will take the responsibility for providing enough food and activity options to keep everyone engaged and well fed over the afternoon back at school. They have also needed to make the necessary modifications to their planned stalls to ensure that they comply with the COVID-19 regulations necessary.

## Winter Uniform Change Over

As the cooler weather will soon approach, I wanted to remind our community that the official date for the start of winter uniform will be **Monday 3 May (Term 2 Week 3)**. The school uniform is a vital element that unites our students. Overall the standard is very high, however I would like to see this maintained particularly throughout the cooler months. I strongly encourage parents to check the status of their daughter's winter uniform and if you find that you need to purchase items, be sure to do so early while stocks are available.

## A Road Safety Message and Behaviour of Students on Public Transport

I have received a number of concerning complaints from the community relating to the road crossing behaviours on display from our students during the morning and afternoon peak times. The students have been reminded of the expectations the school has in relation to how they walk to and from school each day. The students know that they are expected to use the designated crossings provided and to take due care for their safety. Unfortunately, it appears that the students continue cross dangerously across the roads, often darting between the cars and not paying attention to traffic conditions around them, particularly if they are on their mobile phone. I am very concerned that this will result in a pedestrian accident if nothing changes. I have been provided with a few images to demonstrate the behaviours of the students during this time and I am now asking for the support from our parents/carers to reinforce this important road safety message with their daughters.



I am also in discussions with a number of development companies who are commencing their projects in the surrounding streets and this will inevitably impact upon the traffic conditions around the school. I will communicate regularly with the community about any anticipated disruptions or activities that will impact upon school operations, however we are working together in an attempt to minimise this disruption as much as practical. This increase in development will also see heavy vehicles and additional traffic congestion in the neighbouring streets, adding additional safety concerns for the students on their way to and from school.



Over the past few weeks I have also received disappointing complaints from commuters, particularly those travelling on the train about the behaviour of some of our students. The commuters have mentioned that students from our school are not offering their seats (after being asked politely) for the elderly commuters in the carriage. It has also been expressed that SGGHS students are not wearing face masks as required. I am bitterly disappointed that I continue to receive these complaints despite numerous reminders about what is expected. I now ask for the support from parents/carers to reinforce these important messages about the behaviour of students when travelling to and from school on public transport.



### Updated Covid-19 Advice for NSW Schools and Families

Commencing this week, NSW public schools will see a further easing of the COVID-19 restrictions in place. The Department of Education (DoE) has also continued to work with NSW Health to revise the current advice to schools. The DoE website is the most appropriate place to access the most up to date information for families and this can be accessed via the following link;  
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

It is still very important that we all remain vigilant in implementing COVID-safe practices in our schools and some level of restrictions and guidelines will remain in place for some time. Can I again remind our parents/carers that students are not to attend school if they are unwell, even if they only have the mildest of symptoms. Any student who has been unwell and has taken a COVID-19 test, are permitted to return to school only after providing the office with a negative COVID-19 test result and are symptom-free. If a student presents to school unwell, parents/carers will be contacted and the student will be sent home to recover.

It is important to be aware that in the updated advice for families released this week, it clearly states that students who do not undertake a COVID-19 test will not be permitted to return to school for a 10-day period. Additionally, they must be symptom-free for at least 3 days prior to returning to school.

### Vale Jennifer Rowse Former Principal of SGGHS (1985-1992)



The school was sad to hear the news of the passing of former Principal Ms Jenny Rowse last week. I have included a link to the article that featured in the Leader written in memory of her for the community to read.

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/7144087/tributes-for-former-principal-of-st-george-girls-high-school-jenny-rowse/?cs=1507>

I feel so humbled to follow a long line of strong female leaders who have diligently guided our school during their principalship and I would like to acknowledge the outstanding service and commitment that Ms Rowse provided for the staff and the high potential and gifted learners at St George Girls High School. She was a highly respected leader and this is evident in the fond memories that have been shared since her passing.



## Student Achievements

In each Gazette, I like to share any specific individual or group achievements experienced by our students. I am always proud to share our student successes with the community and I know that our students are represented in such a wide variety of areas. I don't always hear about these achievements and therefore welcome updates from students, parents and the community to ensure that I am made aware of any special activities or achievements. Over the past month I have been informed of the following achievements that I wanted to share;

- Congratulations to Bella Wu of Year 9 who was awarded a “Highly Commended” prize for her entry in the Japanese Teachers Association of NSW’s Nengajyo Competition 2020-2021. Nengajyo are postcards that are sent as a greeting for the New Year in Japan. Bella’s design featured strong design elements and effectively integrated Japanese language into the composition.
- Congratulations to Zoe Lee in Year 7 who was the junior winner in the 2021 Kogarah Lunar Year New Year Art Competition. This is a very special achievement when you also consider that over 300 entries were received for this competition.
- A very big congratulations to Caitlin Matthews in Year 10 broke her own record at the Swimming Carnival for the Marathon Swim with 111 laps.



## Congratulations

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

Dana Arenas Valentin and Umam Azkiya of Year 9.

Jessica Lau of Year 11.

Angelina Xie of Year 12.

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

Sophie An, Joyce Chen, Josephine Elgawly, An Ong, Tisha Panya (2), Kate Rai, Carey Tan, Sydney Tran-Pham of Year 8.

Dana Arenas Valentin, Ella Beck (2), Aurelia Gunawan, Agustin Hardjawana, Chi Hoang (2), Mavis Hong, Alina Joseph, Melissa Kim, Michelle Kim, Suekayna Medlej (4), Jessica Nguyen, Raashi Parmar, Sai Vibha Pothuganti, Abbie Wang, Gigi Wu and Isabella Zhu of Year 9

Vibha Balaji, Tanisha Iqbal, Aazeen Khan, Haiqa Qazi and Sanavi Sanap (2) of Year 10.

Jessica Lau (3), Julia Myat and Zaina Siddiqui of Year 11.

Sasha Bilanovsky (3), Samantha Edvell (3) and Angelina Xie of Year 12.

I am looking forward to the final weeks of the first school term and I would like to wish our school community an enjoyable, safe and restful end of term break. I look forward to working with our school community in Term 2, which commences on Tuesday 20 April for the students.

Ms Betty Romeo  
**Principal**

## Deputy Principal's Report – Teaching and Learning

### Expression of Interest – 2021 HSC Presiding Officer Role



All schools are required to appoint a Presiding Officer who will oversee the HSC Examinations at the school.

Our current Presiding Officer is unable to fulfil this role in 2021 so we are seeking expressions of interest from our school community to take on this vital role for the 2021 HSC Examinations.

The attached flyer provides general information about the role, eligibility and the essential requirements of this position. Anyone interested in this role, or wanting further information about the role and responsibilities should **contact Ms Abson. Expressions of Interest close Tuesday 16 March.** Presiding Officer nominations must be submitted to NESA by Friday 26 March.

### Assessment Booklets

Students and parents/carers are able to access all assessment information through the portal, including the assessment policy and procedures, calendar overview of scheduled task dates and subject outlines. It is important that students understand their responsibilities in regards to completing tasks and what to do if they are sick or late on the day of a task. Students are strongly encouraged to keep a copy of the calendar either in their folder or above their desk and highlight when their assessment tasks are scheduled so they can prepare and organise their time effectively. Please note that the dates published may need to change for various reasons. All students will be notified by their teacher in writing of any date changes and the assessment notification should always be what the students follow as the correct scheduled assessment task date. Any student in Year 7, 9 or 11 who has not returned their signed assessment slip to Mrs Housego should do so by the end of the term.

### Year 12 Assessment Block 2

Assessment Block 2 commenced on Monday 8 March and will continue until Friday 19 March. There are no normal timetabled lessons during an assessment block and students are only required at school when they have a scheduled assessment task. 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 12 Deputy Principal – Ms Abson, 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.

### SGGHS Professional Learning Update

Professional learning for all teachers and executive is a vital component of the performance and development process. It facilitates growth and enhances the quality of teaching and learning for students. Professional learning and collaborative practice is a priority at St George Girls High School and will continue to feature prominently in the 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan and Strategic Direction initiatives.

Staff actively engage in a wide range of targeted professional learning opportunities throughout the year which link directly to a curriculum area, identified goals outlined in individual Performance and Development Plans, or to the school's strategic directions and key initiatives. In the first half of Term 1, SGGHS staff have engaged in the following professional learning:

### 2020 HSC Analysis

As part of the agenda for the second School Development Day at the start of the year, the 2020 HSC analysis session provided the opportunity for staff to work collaboratively with colleagues on completing a course specific analysis of 2020 HSC results. The activities focused on targeting the top 2 HSC Bands (Band 5 and Band 6), identifying areas of strength, areas for development, modifications needed to teaching programs as well as teaching and learning strategies, resources required to implement changes and professional learning needs to support the developed plan for the 2021 HSC. The session allowed for analysis of student data through SCOUT and RAP (Results Analysis Package) and accessing the various graphs and tables available. In the coming 2 week, all faculty Head Teachers will meet with the Senior Executive to discuss their analysis and plans to support the delivery of the 2021 HSC courses.

## HSC Professional Learning: A quality teaching practice initiative

The innovative HSC Professional Learning: A quality teaching practice initiative is professional learning available in Term 1 for Stage 6 teachers across a number of courses.

The professional learning explores proven methods for achieving student lift with expert HSC Teachers and colleagues from across the state. A number of SGGHS staff have participated in these sessions in the areas of Modern History, Biology and Visual Arts.



## Executive Leadership Team - Professional Learning Day

The Executive Leadership Day earlier this term continued to focus on the development of the 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan. The Executive had the opportunity to continue the work from Term 4 and look further at Strategic Direction 2 - Collaborative Practice, and start developing ideas around the Improvement Measures and Success Criteria components of the SIP. Working in small groups, the Executive also began to draft purpose statements, key initiatives and activities for Strategic Direction 1



and 3 and had the opportunity to brainstorm targeted activities for 2021 around the SEF theme of High Expectations. The Executive have continued to refine the SIP components and engage in discussion during Executive Meetings about key initiatives, implementation and progress monitoring requirements, as well as professional learning and resourcing specific to 2021 targeted activities.



## Winter Uniform

Winter Uniform will commence in Term 2 Week 3. Students are reminded that they are to be in full school uniform every day and if not, they should follow the school's procedures for obtaining either a uniform pass or uniform infringement. Outlined below are uniform requirements specific to the winter uniform:

### Junior Uniform:

- Junior winter tunic
- White Long-sleeved shirt
- Tie
- Tailored Trousers (optional)

### Senior Uniform:

- St George all season skirt
- White Long-sleeved shirt
- Tailored Trousers (optional)
- Year 12 students who are wearing the Year 12 jersey may only wear the white long-sleeved shirt under the jersey.

### General uniform requirements:

- Black leather flat lace up school shoes
- School blazer, jumper or navy overcoat may be worn in winter.
- Neck scarves in winter must be red, white or navy blue.
- White plain over ankle length socks or beige, navy or black tights in winter.
- Sports Jackets may be worn as uniform on non-sport days for additional warmth.
- Black jumpers, cardigans or hoodies are not permitted.
- Skivvies are not permitted.

## Parenting Ideas – ‘Insight’ Article

### Helping your child become the best student they can be

The new school year is full of excitement and possibility for students and parents. Regardless of how a child or young person has previously performed, this year offers a chance to set a new course.

## Upcoming Free Parent Webinar: Communicating With Teenage Boys

The first parent webinar for 2021 is scheduled for this Month. Our SGGHS families who have teenage boys may find this webinar useful.



### Maggie Dent presents: Communicating with teenage boys

Adolescence has a way of transforming children's brains that can make communication challenging, especially with teenage boys who often start articulating in monosyllabic grunts. These brain changes also make them more sensitive, volatile and critical of themselves, making the tween/teen years a high-risk window. In this webinar, Maggie Dent shows how using compassionate, empowering communication with teenage boys can better guide them across the bridge to healthy manhood to a place where they feel worthwhile and engaged in respectful relationships.

Key learning and discussion points include:

- communicating effectively
- giving feedback
- avoiding arguments
- helping teenage boys to problem solve
- letting our sons know we really hear them, and that they matter

**WEBINAR DATE** 24 MAR 2021, 8-9 PM AEDT **VOUCHER CODE** COMMUNICATION **VOUCHER EXPIRES** 24 JUN 2021

The attached pdf provides all information regarding registration and accessing this webinar.

## Study Skills Tip for March – 4 Reasons Not To Put Off Starting Assignments

This month's study skills tip is **'4 Reasons Not To Put Off Starting Assignments'**. Many students often procrastinate when it comes to starting homework or an assignment. This article provides four reasons why you should start working on your assignment immediately

## Save the Date: Combined Year 7/8 Parent/Student Study Skills Evening – Monday 24 May

To support the development of effective study skills and learning strategies, every year we hold a combined Year 7 Parent/Student Study Skills Evening in Term 2, with Sydney Technical High School. Due to COVID, we were not able to hold this event last year, however with the current guidelines in place we are able to provide this event for our new Year 7 students and parents/carers as well as offer it to our Year 8 students and parents/carers who missed out last year. This interactive evening will provide a range of strategies and tools for both parents/carers and their daughters to use in the areas of managing workload, efficient time management, organisation and effective studying in high school. Further information on this evening will be sent home early Term 2, but keep the date free.

## Upcoming Cohort Activities/Events

Upcoming key events and activities across the year groups include:

**10-12 March** – Year 7 Camp

**22 March** – SRC Fundraising Day

**23 March** – Year 7 Vaccinations

**24-26 March** – Year 11 Camp

Ms Pamela Abson

**Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning**

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

## Deputy Principal's Report – Curriculum

### 2021 Changes to NAPLAN

**O**n 21 May this year, our Year 7 and Year 9 students will be completing the NAPLAN tests via the online format. The rollout for NAPLAN online has commenced since 2018 with the majority of schools in NSW now completing this assessment online. There are many benefits that the schools previously using the online platform have found and we think it will be an important diagnostic tool that will assist our students to engage further in the assessment and perform at a higher level.

The NAPLAN Online test, across Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy, is a computerised tailored test that adapts to student responses. As students complete set questions, the testing platform then offers varied pathways to present students with questions that may be more or less difficult. This will allow for our students to participate in the more challenging questions available within this format and this will, in turn, lead to more precise results that accurately reflect the student's true level of achievement. Further to question pathways, the online test is designed in sections. A student's answers to one section of the test will determine the next section to appear on the student's screen. At the end of a test section, a notification screen reminds students to check their answers before proceeding to the next section. This guidance and prompting will reinforce the importance of particular questions and will ultimately assist students in navigating their test effectively.

NAPLAN tests are an essential assessment tool that allows us as a school to see how our students are progressing in core areas of literacy and numeracy against the national standard, while comparing their achievement to their peers throughout Australia. We are excited to observe and track the performance of our students engaging with the online platform, where they will get to explore the various pathways of questions including the higher order challenging questions, only available in the online platform set up.

To assist the students to appropriately prepare and adapt to the new online platform, I will be facilitating some practice tests at the back end of this term. This will enable all students to become familiar with the new style of testing and get exposure to the interactive format that the questions are presented in. The practice tests are not for the purpose of gathering data and no scores will be recorded. These practice sessions are solely for the purpose of familiarisation within the platform. Information regarding when the practice sessions will be held will be communicated in the coming weeks.

### Parent Teacher Evening

We have our first scheduled Parent Teacher evening for the year coming up on Tuesday 30 March and this will be for Year 7 and 12 students and families. We have been closely following the DoE COVID 19 Safety guidelines regarding parent meetings onsite and, as it currently stands, we are able to hold Parent Teacher meetings with appropriate safety measures in place.

The interviews are scheduled to commence from 3:30pm and the details regarding how the evening will run, the venues in use and the safety measures in place will be communicated in more depth to parents in the coming week. As per usual all bookings will be made via the School Interviews platform and will be available on the website at least two weeks prior to the evening ensuring that families have enough time to book appointments with their daughter's class teachers. It is advisable to make your bookings as soon as the documentation comes out, as spaces and times will be limited.

For our new Year 7 students and families, this Parent Teacher evening will provide a welcomed opportunity for you to visit our school, meet with your daughter's teachers and discuss how your daughter is managing the transition into High School.

For Year 12 students and Parents, this will be a valuable opportunity to receive feedback on current progress as well as identify areas for continued refinement and consolidation. In the case that families are unable to attend, Year 12 students will receive their Mid-Course report early in Term 2 and this too will provide students and families with targeted feedback and guidance for continued improvement towards the HSC.

We look forward to finally welcoming parents and families back on site facilitating important conversations around student growth and improvement.

## 2021 Confirmed Curriculum Patterns

The opportunity for students to move and change their Stage 4/5 Elective or Preliminary subjects has now closed. All students have settled into the subjects for 2021 and should be well underway with their studies. Now that curriculum patterns are locked in, it is a perfect time to begin to map out all the upcoming assessment tasks for each term, as they are listed in the assessment booklet.

To assist our Year 11 and 12 students achieve their personal best and optimise their level of achievement, students are encouraged to sustain a workable amount of units within their pattern of study. Year 11 students encouraged to have a pattern of study inclusive of 12-13 units and for Year 12 students we strongly encourage a pattern of study inclusive of 10-11 units. Year 11 and 12 students are able to drop a subject at any point throughout the year, and can do so as long as they meet the mandatory minimum requirements for units studied.

## Vaping

It has been brought to our attention that some students, across various year groups, may be experimenting with vaping. We are encouraging all parents and families to become familiar with what vaping is and to have honest conversations with your daughters if you have concerns.

Vaping is performed via electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes which are battery operated devices that heat a liquid to produce a vapour that users inhale. Vaping devices may be shaped and coloured to make them look like cigarettes or other tobacco products like cigars, cigarillos, pipes, hookahs, shishas and sometimes they look like everyday items such as pens, USB memory sticks or makeup equipment such as lip sticks and concealer products. Vaping among teenagers is currently on the rise and that is largely due to the fact that it is being presented using fun flavours, tech devices and is promoted as harmless. This is most definitely not the case as Vaping products are commonly being imported and illegally, resulting in no regulation on the products and chemicals that are being inhaled. When using an e-cigarette, the user inhales and exhales the vapour from the heated e-liquid. E-liquid contains a range of chemicals and it may or may not contain nicotine. Many of these products have been found to use nicotine salts in vapes rather than regular nicotine. Salts allow higher concentrations to be inhaled more easily and absorbed more quickly.

The School is aware of increased usage among young people. We are committed to ensuring that our students do not engage in any vaping on school grounds as well as travelling to and from school in school uniform. We are continually raising awareness with all staff and providing current and up to date information regarding vaping and potential devices that are being used. If a student is caught vaping or there is firm reasonable belief that they may have vaping products on them or in their possession, parents will be contacted and DoE and school protocols around having illegal products on school premises will be followed.

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

## English

It has been an exciting start to the year. Year 7 have been introducing themselves in their writing, Year 8 are considering the relevance of heroes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Year 9 are learning how to be critical in a challenging media landscape, and Year 10 are considering the importance of resistance in texts. Our Year 11 and 12 students continue to be challenged as they refine their own voices in writing and prepare for the first assessment block on 2021 respectively.

We look forward to continuing along the same creative and critical lines for the duration of the year in the classroom. We also look forward to the return of debating in 2021. Last year was a successful year for St George and we hope to build on this success as we look to welcome new junior teams into the fold. Watch this space.

## Student Representative Council

Greetings from your 2021 SRC Executive team! We are very excited to work with our school community this year, and we have some excellent plans for fundraising this year after brainstorming on our annual Leadership Day, held on Thursday 25 February. The theme this year is “Back to Our Roots” which involves us giving back to Australia and helping those less fortunate than ourselves.



Our first fundraiser will be on 22 March (Monday Week 9). The Year 7 SRC will be supporting the Bandaged Bear Appeal to support children’s hospitals. The money will go to medical research, equipment, and essential services for children with illnesses. On the day, students will be encouraged to wear orange accessories to show their support for the cause. We will be selling merchandise and raffle tickets, and we are planning to hold a bingo tournament at lunch. We are really excited for our first fundraising event of the year, and we hope you are too!

In Term 2, our Year 10 SRC will be fundraising for the Healing Foundation, which supports survivors of the Stolen Generation. We will be holding a jewellery workshop and holding a lolly jar competition on the day.

SRC Week will be held on Week 6, Term 3. The Year 12 SRC will be organising a sporting event between our school and Sydney Technical High School. The Year 11 SRC will be running a DIY Day, a Family Feud between the teachers and the students, and the annual Talent Quest. Year 9 SRC will be holding an “Under the Sea” themed day to support the Great Barrier Reef Foundation during SRC Week in Term 3. Fish themed snacks will be sold at recess, and there will be the opportunity to wear ocean themed mufti.

At the end of the year, the Year 8 SRC plans to hold an amusement park-themed day. Unlike the other SRC days, this fundraiser will be raising money for the school. There will be many fun activities, and it will be an excellent way to have fun with friends at the end of a satisfying year.

## Mathematics

The Mathematics faculty welcomes all students to a new school year and particularly to Year 7.

This year we challenge you to set high expectations for your mathematics and to strive for them. We will aim to build your skills further to meet these expectations.

### HSC Results 2020

Year 12 Mathematics students achieved some outstanding HSC results in 2020.

A special congratulations goes out to Anne Chen who was placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the state in Mathematics Advanced. Her teacher Mrs Louskos (along with the rest of the Maths staff) are very proud with that wonderful news and of her achievements.

I look forward to seeing terrific results from this year's Year 12 students.

### Some Tips for success for all students!!

- Start 'planting the seed' early on in the school term with a good schedule at home that should include: a good homework routine, a good time for bed and of course a **responsible use of electronic devices which includes when and where** the electronic devices will be turned off for the night.
- **Separate homework time from screen time.** This allows for better concentration and focus on the concepts and questions when attempting them.
- Always allow 20 min at the start of the week to plan your homework/study routine for that week.

### Homework routine?

- Homework is an important process to master concepts and content in Mathematics.
- Homework is usually given at the end of each lesson.
- When completing homework tasks it is important to show working (where necessary), mark the work and resolve any errors.
- If students are having difficulty understanding a concept or a particular problem, then they should:
  - seek assistance from the teacher
  - review the notes and examples in class or
  - attend the **Mathematics Homework** centre (see below)

### Mathematics Homework Centre

The Mathematics Homework Centre has been running for 5 years and it is on again this year. This year the Centre will be open on **Wednesday** between 3.30pm and 5.00pm and it is held in the library. Students have a chance to request specialised help from talented mathematicians and tutors, while also making a head-start on their homework. If you're not already taking advantage of this excellent and targeted assistance, collect a permission form from the Mathematics staffroom. We are grateful to the P&C for their continued support of this program.



## Student Wellbeing

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

Riya Amin (5), Karina Dogra (2), Anam Fatima, Salam Khalil, An Ong, Rachel Shen (6), Elizabeth Suto (2), Riya Suvarna (3), Loretta Tan, Risa Tsuyuki and Emily Yung (6) of Year 8.

Ella Beck (2), Ada Fu (2), Aurelia Gunawan, Anastasia Kerr, Edwina Li (4), Raashi Parmar, Sai Vibha Pothuganti, Rithika Sivakkumaran (3), Gillian Tan, Abbie Wang, Gigi Wu and Sophia Zhou of Year 9.

Houda Hamadi, Nazihah Ibnat, Grace Lee, Sanavi Sanap (4), Hayee Wong and Bonnie Zimmerman (2) of Year 10.

Niamh Deuis, Aynan Hoque, Chanisa Jennings, Sumi Kong, Jessica Lau (2), Irena Liu, Eleni Markantonakis (6), Julia Myat (3), Megan Nguyen, Amara Randhawa, Zaina Siddiqui (5), Jashan Singh, Monica Zhou (2) and Tiffany Zhu of Year 11.

Sasha Bilanovsky, Celina Chhay, Carol Farhoud (2), Salina Huang (4), Alekhya Immadi (2), Clare Jenkins (4), Katerina Kalogerakis, Shivangi Katoch, Tammy Lee (2), Kyee Lei (2), Adeline Liu (2), Felicity Luong (2), Durgadevi Murugesan (4), Aneeta Nelson, Hy Anh Nguyen (3), Trisha Shankar, Anika Tahsin, Phoebe Tandjiria, Sansitha Velayuthar (2), Amy Vu, Michelle Vuu, Ayesha Waheed, Catherine Weng, Mandy Yang (8) and Michelle Zeng (2) of Year 12.

The following students have been presented with Super Dragon Badges:

Riya Amin (8), Rachel Shen (8) and Emily Yung (8) of Year 8.

Tessa Jolly (8) and Gillian Tan of Year 9.

Tanisha Iqbal and Bonnie Zimmerman of Year 10.

Jessica Lau and Zaina Siddiqui of Year 11.

Salina Huang and Mandy Yang (2) of Year 12.

### Finance News

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

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

Online payments are a safer option for students and may be made by clicking the link found on statement of account emails and following the instructions on the attached flyer.

## Green Corner



### Fact of the Month:

**C**harles Darwin (who published the Theory of Natural Selection) spent 39 years studying earthworms more than 100 years ago.

### Recent Events:

**Enviro Leadership Day Training Day** – organised by Mrs Duffy annually, to organise and allocate leadership roles across the Enviro Council and plan initiatives for the rest of the year. Alongside housekeeping tasks, the Enviro Council worked on the role statements and

the processes required to implement the many activities operated by the Enviro Council which will become part of the Enviro Council School Manual and Policy. The focus this year was on what leadership meant, reflecting on what type of leader we thought we were and how to develop our skills to become considerate and effective leaders who can represent our fellow students and the environment better. These skills will also enable us to be effective leaders when we leave school.



### Upcoming Events:

✓ **Dragon Pride Day** – was held on **Thursday 4 March**. An Enviro Council stall was held to inform the school community of the activities held throughout the year. Watch this space in the next edition of the Gazette for photos and a report.

✓ **Clean Up Australia Day 2021** – official Clean Up Australia Day is **Sunday 7 March**. You are encouraged to become involved with your local community events.

The school event will be **Monday, 15 March (week 8)**. The sign-up sheet will be up soon for anyone interested in upholding our image as an anti-littering, pristine school.

✓ **Earth Hour 2021 Global Event** is officially on **Saturday, 27 March 8:30pm to 9:30pm** with the **THEME “MAKE THE #SWITCHFORNATURE AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR A RENEWABLES FUTURE!”** for more information go to <https://www.earthhour.org.au/>

✓ **Earth Hour School Event** will be held on **Thursday, 25 March (week 9)**. Various exciting activities have been planned to keep you all interested in saving energy, right from Year 7 to Year 12. Hence, do not skip school that day.

✓ **WIRES** – Watch this space – The Enviro Council will be fund raising early in Term 2.

**Ru Yun Liu**

Enviro Journalist and Enviro Council Executive 2021

## Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

### Zone Swimming Report

**O**n Friday, 26 February and Monday 1 March, 30 students represented St George Girls High School by competing in the St George Zone Swimming carnival, held at Roselands Swimming Centre.

Students competed in various swimming events and, as a result, we were the winning girl's school on 735 points. A number of students placed in the top 3 in Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly, Freestyle (50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 200m Individual Medley and relays). All our relay teams placed in the top 2 including, 12-17 Years 4x50m freestyle events, the Open 4x50m medley relay and the 6x50m All age relay team and will be progressing to the Sydney East Regional Swimming Carnival.



Thank you to Mr Charlupski, Mrs Jospe, Mr Invernon, and Mr Sherley for all attending the carnival and fulfilling the role of either Time Keeper or Team Manager. Your help on the day was greatly appreciated to Miss Papas and the St George Girls Zone. A special thank you to our 8 student helpers on the day who assisted with both the Recording of the results.

Congratulations to the following students who were either the Zone Age Champion or the Zone Runner up:

**12 Years Age Runner Up:** Eliana Ugto  
**14 Years Age Champion:** Joey Lu  
**16 Years Age Runner Up:** Chloe Xu  
**17 Years Age Runner Up:** Catherine Weng

The Sydney East Regional Swimming carnival will be held on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. I wish all of our competitors the best of luck as they represent both their school and zone.

**Please note: The following events will not be swum at the Sydney East Championships and the team to compete at the NSWCHSSA Championships will be selected on the basis of submitted times.**

**200m Individual Medley, 400m Individual Medley, 400m Freestyle and 800m Freestyle**

Furthermore if any parent would like to attend the Sydney East Championships please see the attached flyer.



## Around the grounds in Sport.....

It has been an action packed start to Term 1 with Knockout Sport returning after a long break due to Covid-19. It has been great to see so many girls trial for the various sporting teams on offer, for a chance to represent the school.

### Volleyball

First up we had the Open Girls Volleyball take part in the Central Venue Day at Menai Indoor Sports Centre. We lost in the Semi-Finals for the second year running against our arch rivals Kogarah High School in a tense 3 set battle. We had three girls selected in the Sydney East training squad – Michelle Xu, Natalie Vuong and Esther Kim.

Our fantastic team consisted of:

Michelle Xu, Alisa Mo, Catherine Zhou, Natalie Vuong, Fiona Zhu, Jacinta Low, Kieu-An Ngyuen Jacqueline Widjaja, Esther Kim, Samantha Ma and Sabrina Deng.



### Basketball

Basketball round 1 commenced in Week 3 and it was a tough initiation for some of our students. Without any training and some on the day illness and injury meant our girls were up against a strong Caringbah High School. We went down 38-12 which was a remarkable improvement from previous years.

The team consisted of the following students: Jenica Wong, Hayley Chan, Bonnie Li, Kieu-An Nguyen, Agnes Tjokrosetio, Chloe Xu, Jashan Singh, Emilie Young, Jacinta Low and Emily Britton.



### Touch Football

The first round of the Sydney East Touch Football Knockout was played at Sydney Girls High School during Week 6. The girls managed to get the win on the day beating SGHS 2-1 enduring a thrilling game that was forced into a sudden death playoff with extra time.

The team consisted of the following students: Magdalene Wong, Alannah Ajami, Anna Wong, Chloe Khan, Bonnie Li, Sophia Kim, Hayley Chan, Becky Nguyen, Katelyn Labrakis, Amy Le, Cindy Xie, Serena Giang, Joey Lu and Elizabeth Suto.

### Tennis

At the time of writing we have two students participating in the NSWCHS 2021 Tennis u15 Championships. Ella Soo (Year 8) and Melissa Kim (Year 9) both girls have successfully won their first matches and will be moving through to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the competition. We look forward to celebrating their results in future Gazette reports.

Coming up over the next few weeks will be our Open Soccer team playing Wiley Park Girls in Week 10, our Open Netballers striving for success at the Central Venue day in Week 7 and our Under 15 Netballers hoping to progress past Round 1 when we host Alexandria Park.



Mr Y Charlupski  
Sports Coordinator

## Parents and Citizens' Association

What a great turnout for our first 2021 meeting! Welcome to all new parents who attended. Thank you to Ms Romeo for her informative talk on HSC performance, the new Strategic Improvement Plan and the updated High Potential and Gifted Education policy. It's always insightful to hear about strategic school programs that bring out the best in our daughters. We also received a sneak peek at the new uniform to be rolled out in 2022. We look forward to hearing from our next guest speaker, Ms Wright Head of CAPA faculty.

We have our next Bunnings BBQ scheduled for 7 March 2021. Thank you to all our volunteers. We hope for a great day.

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

The P&C committee meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month during school terms. Our next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 25 March 2021 as a virtual Zoom meeting. The link will be provided closer to the date. Everyone is welcome to attend. The P&C looks forward to connecting with all parents at these meetings throughout the year to support the school and our daughter's education.

Regards

Sharon Khan  
**President P&C**

## Mothers' Committee

Thank you to Ms Romeo for her Principal's Report, during which she presented our schools draft Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) with a focus on creating a culture of growth and personal excellence and high expectations for our high potential learners. This will be achieved through collaborative practice with students and teachers who will be focusing on delivering high impact teaching and assessment.

Our Guest speaker this month was Mr Nousis, History Head Teacher. He delivered a very informative presentation on the fascinating History curriculum, the senior European History tour, and the excellent results our students have achieved in the HSC in recent years.

The Mothers' Committee holds meetings on the first Wednesday of every month during the school terms from 10 am to 12 noon. It's a great opportunity to meet other mums and learn about the goings on in our school. Please feel free to attend even if you cannot stay for the whole meeting.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 5 May at 10am in the School Library.**

### Mother-Daughter Dinner

Our fabulous Mother-Daughter dinner will be held on **Saturday, 22 May**. It's a great opportunity for mothers, daughters and friends to get together for a tasty 3 course dinner, dancing and raffle prizes.

Keep an eye out for booking information flyer due out in the school Gazette.

### Uniform Shop News

The Uniform Shop will be open every Wednesday during the school term from 12:45pm – 3:30pm. We will also be opening from **9:00am-12 noon on Saturday 17 April and 1 May** to assist with the changeover to winter uniform. The uniform shop is run by parent volunteers, so thank you to all the parents who have assisted and we extend a very warm welcome to any parents who can spare some time to volunteer. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Cathy.

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

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

## St Georgians

### 2020 HSC Excellence Awards

Our Association Treasurer, Margaret James, had the pleasure of representing The St Georgians at the recent Year 12, 2020 HSC Excellence Ceremony. The St Georgians are proud to sponsor these awards. The students achieved wonderful results across all subjects despite the difficulties 2020 placed in their path. Well done to all Year 12, 2020 students. Congratulations on your achievements.

Due to the current pandemic situation, our monthly meetings have been suspended. If you need any information about the St Georgians please don't hesitate to contact us at the email or numbers below. We have also formed a "closed group"— simply search Facebook for The St Georgians and choose The St Georgians closed group and ask to join.

[TheStGeorgians@hotmail.com](mailto:TheStGeorgians@hotmail.com)

Kim Archibald  
**President**  
0410 582 636

Heather Jennings  
**Secretary**  
9501 4641



# St George Girls Make News!

## ST GEORGE & SUTHERLAND SHIRE **Leader**

14 ST GEORGE & SUTHERLAND SHIRE LEADER Wednesday February 24, 2021

### NEWS



**RISING TALENT:** Kogarah MP Chris Minns congratulates junior winner Zoe Lee pictured with competition judge, Professor Fang Xu.

## The art of Lunar New Year

THE 2021 Kogarah Lunar New Year Art Competition attracted a record number of entries with more than 300 local students submitting their original artworks for judging.

Organised by Kogarah MP Chris Minns, entries were received from local primary and secondary schools as well as Chinese language and art school students.

Eighteen finalists were selected with the winners selected by a judging panel comprising: Chris Minns MP; Fang Xu, Associate Professor, Art and Design, UN-

SW; Jim West, president of St George Art Society; and Sarah Kalidis, St George Artist.

Junior winner was Zoe Lee, aged 12.

Commenting on Zoe's winning entry, Professor Fang Xu said: "In terms of creativity, this work skillfully utilizes the similarity between the pronunciation of 'Niu' (Ox) in Chinese and 'New' in English, and is organised in the English text of 'Happy New Year'."

Lynn Wang, 13, was the senior winner. Commenting on Lynn's artwork, Sarah Kalidis said: "The work is

very joyous and cheerful, the bright colours are happy and engaging, and the use of greenery celebrates life and growth. The gathering of the oxen signifies togetherness and hope which is all too important at this time."

This year a new prize was offered for calligraphy as part of the competition. The contest was open to adults with 27 entries received.

The winner was Tom Tang, a calligraphy teacher at CASS Language School (Kogarah). Mr Tang's work was selected by an online poll with more than 3,000 people voting.