

# HBHS

# BUSH

# BULLETIN



**Year 12 Graduation 2020**

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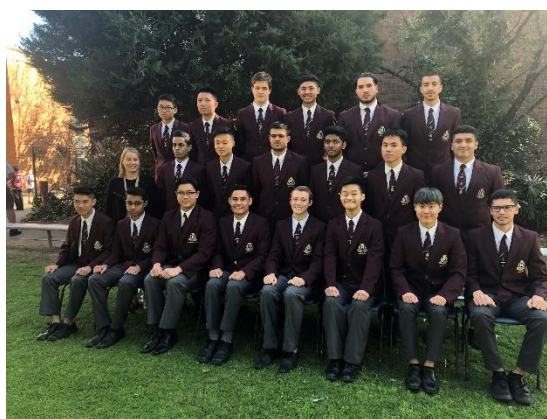
## Principal Mr Kevin Elgood

### Farewell Year 12 2020

Congratulations to Year 12 students on completing their HSC exams in a year of unprecedented disruption. Last Friday the majority of students completed their sign out from school, this marks the end of their formal schooling. On behalf of all staff at Homebush Boys High School, I would like to wish our Year 12 students great success in the future and I have every confidence that their time at Homebush Boys has equipped them with the knowledge and skills to ensure success.



To Year 12 2020, I hope you achieve the results that you have worked towards and that you have a happy and successful future. I hope you always remember your years at Homebush as a fun and enjoyable time. You will always be a part of the Homebush Boys High School community. Now go forth and make your mark on the world. Best wishes from all at HBHS.





## Farewell Year 12 2020

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## Ms Catherine Player Deputy Principal (Year 7 & 10)



Term 4 has been a very busy Term for both Years 7 and 10, with lots of initiatives on offer. They have been busily completing final Assessments for the year, as well as getting involved in career opportunities, sustainability projects and multi-media projects, just to name a few. It is so wonderful to see their talents and skills developing and the way they are sharing them with the school community. It is so important for the students to develop their creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking skills, and that has definitely been happening throughout the term.

### Year 7:



Year 7 have nearly completed their first Year of High School, and what a year it has been. They are definitely proving themselves in the classrooms, on the sporting fields, in the SRC developing their leadership skills and as eco warriors in our environment club. Our Environment Club are also part of a recycling initiative with Strathfield Council. It is so important for the boys to learn the importance of being



environmentally conscious. In Technology Mandatory, Year 7 are also looking after the sustainability kitchen garden. From the ground to the table, they are learning about growing, harvesting and using ingredients to make nutritious meals.



Another initiative Year 7 have been working on is a “Day in the Life of Year 7” Video. This will be used for Orientation Day for Year 7 2021 and to show our Primary Schools about life at Homebush Boys. The students have been scripting, filming and editing the Video. I can’t wait to see the finished product.

### Year 10:

Year 10 have been working on their future pathways and trying different professions so they can map a plan for their future. In their career classes they have been engaged in the Purpose Project. The program helps students understand career options, the world of work and how to be successful in the future. Some great advice about career planning and the current world of work which are so important for our students to be aware of and understand. Other students have been completing a bricklaying Program at Granville TAFE. I had the pleasure of visiting the students and they were really enjoying the opportunity to learn a new skill.



### **WORLD TEACHERS DAY:**

Every year on October 30, we Celebrate World Teachers Day. This is an opportunity to celebrate the quality teaching and inspirational teachers that ensure all students are known, valued and cared for every day in classrooms across NSW. World Teacher's day is an opportunity to celebrate the 160 000+ hardworking and dedicated primary, secondary and early childhood teachers in NSW.

This year at HBHS the Senior Executive hosted a celebratory morning tea for staff in the library. It was a great opportunity to gather together and share a laugh and something yummy to eat. Thank you cookies were handed out by our SRC students and the students thanked the teachers for their dedication and hard work. Mr Elgood, the Principal, handed out the cake himself.

We congratulated Mr Chris Burke in Science for his Principal's Network Award for Excellence in the role of Classroom Teacher. A great achievement for Chris who was originally presented the award by Director of Educational Learning, Maria Serafim. We celebrated this achievement again at the Morning Tea.

On behalf of the Senior Executive we would like to once again say thank you to the wonderful teachers at HBHS and we appreciate your hard work and dedication to our students to ensure that they are known, valued and cared for. Our students are lucky to have you.



### **Vale Donald Talbot (1933 – 2020)**

Legendary swimming coach, Don Talbot passed away this week in Queensland. Donald Malcolm Talbot AO OBE was an Australian Olympic swimming coach and sport administrator. He coached national teams for Canada, the United States and Australia.

Don grew up in Bankstown and attended Homebush Boys High School. After almost drowning as a child he took up swimming, becoming a teacher and swim coach. He started coaching in the 1950s, discovering John and Ilsa Konrads and coaching them to swimming success. He played a pivotal part in some of Australia's most successful Olympic campaigns as head coach of the swim team. The International Swimming Hall of Fame member first took charge of Australia's swim team in the 1960s and held official titles at seven Olympic Games. He also enjoyed stints with both Canada and the United States and was named the inaugural director of the Australian Institute of Sport in 1980. The master strategist returned as Australian swimming's head coach in 1989, overseeing a resurgence that culminated in 18 medals – five of them gold – at Sydney's 2000 Olympics. He was the coach of champions such as Ian Thorpe, Grant Hackett, and Susie O'Neill in Sydney, and oversaw the likes of Kieren Perkins in glorious campaigns at Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996. Talbot's Sydney 2000 campaign was highlighted by a boil over victory for Australian in the men's 4x100m relay, where Thorpe, Michael Klim, Ashley Callus and Chris Fydler beat the hotly-fancied USA team.

Don Talbot is being remembered as a "coaching magician" and has been described as being fiercely uncompromising, demanded the best of everyone he worked with, inspiring them, resulting in everyone lifting their game around him and achieving their best. Don's legacy will remain as one of Australia's most successful swimming coaches and a true inspiration.



**Mr Joel Howard**  
**Rel. Deputy Principal (Year 8 & 11)**

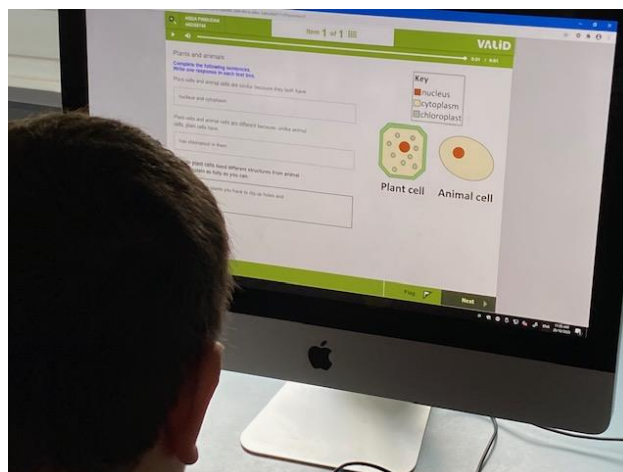


**Year 8**



This term has been a busy one thus far for Year 8 students. Students have been working on projects as part of summative assessments that will count to their yearly results, assessments are due in some subjects and yearly exams are taking place and coming up in some subjects. I am extremely proud of how Year 8 are working at the moment and the level of dedication that they are showing towards their studies.

Year 8 have also completed the **VALID** (Validation of assessment for learning and individual development) test which measures students' scientific skills via an online examination. The examination was expertly organised by Mr Burke of the Science faculty and was a great opportunity for students to test their scientific skills. Students were extremely well behaved and should be congratulated for their efforts on the day. I look forward to seeing the results.



The behaviour of Year 8 has been outstanding this term. The students have already received 1772 Bushy Boy Behaviour (BBB) awards. These are a form of online merit which are awarded for excellent behaviour, learning or for students showing respect. Most BBB's have been for excellent class work, excellent results in assessments and examinations and for outstanding effort in class. These awards have come from every subject, for all classes and have been awarded to more than 150 students within the cohort in the first 4 weeks of this term. This is an outstanding effort for so early in the term. Keep up the great work Year 8.

## Year 11



In a Year assembly on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November we were able to celebrate some terrific student achievement by handing out over 40 Blue awards and over 60 Maroon awards. These awards are issued to students who receive multiple BBB (Merits) awards.

All students were worthy recipients. Congratulations to all boys for this great achievement. Keep up the great work and outstanding behaviour.



Year 11 students are transitioning into Year 12. As a result, many students have adapted their patterns of study. Some students have reduced their subject load to have 10 units, while others have picked up Extension 1 and Extension 2 subjects. This year we have over 30 students partaking in Extension 2 subjects and over 50 students partaking in Extension 1 subjects as part of their pattern of study. This has been a smooth transition so far with all students completing the

necessary paperwork required to change their pattern of study. With some students picking up subjects taught outside regular school hours and others dropping down to a reduced number of units, students may have study periods in their timetable. Students are able to sign in no later than 9:30am if they have Period 1 off. They may also sign out at lunch time if they have the last Period off in the day.

## Mrs Anna Paleothodoros Deputy Principal (Year 9 & 12)



### Year 12 Farewell Assembly



On Tuesday 13 October the school farewelled Year 12 2020 for the last time in a shortened assembly. The Drum Corp provided a fantastic reminder of the importance of the event as the iconic drum sounds resonated throughout the assembly area. Year 12 were overwhelmed with the event and began to realise that these were their final days. They enjoyed the speeches by their Captains and as well as the rest of the day rehearsing for the graduation, the sports events organised by

Ms Chapman and Mr Burke and the two in a roll lunch, soft drink and ice blocks provided by the Year 11 Prefects and Mrs Papavramidis on behalf of the school.



### Year 12 Graduation Ceremony

The Graduation Ceremony was Live streamed for parents and the wider school community on Wednesday 14 October and even though it provided some organisational and technical challenges, it ran very smoothly. The ceremony was highlighted by the Captains' speeches, Raymond Bholm's electric guitar performance and the wonderful academic and co-curricular achievements by the Year 12 cohort. It was also great to see Year 12 photos displayed on the large screen on stage and it was touching to see Year 12 finally graduating in the school hall and reaching this wonderful milestone in their lives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for raising such fine young gentleman and for supporting your sons and our school throughout the years.





I would also like to thank all the teachers and staff who guided and supported Year 12 throughout their schooling life at Homebush Boys High School and especially Mr Burke and Mr Johnston and Ms Chapman who as the Year Adviser, Assistant Year Adviser and Head Teacher Wellbeing who provided much needed guidance and support for Year 12 at times of need.

I would also like to thank all the staff and students who made the Year 12 Graduation Day such a memorable one. I would like to acknowledge the students involved in the ceremony and the BBQ after the event which included the Drum Corp, Year 12 Music class, Year 11 Prefects and a very special thank you to Ahmad Alameddine Year 12 and his family for donating the sausages for the BBQ. The Year 12 students thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations and the BBQ and did not want to leave at the end as they realised how special this day was.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful Year 12 2020 students for their resilience, patience, perseverance and all their efforts this year. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours!



### HSC Exams Tuesday 20 October – Wednesday 11 November 2020



The HSC began smoothly with all students signing in early for their first English Examination Paper 1 on Tuesday 20 October. Most students were a bit nervous but came out of the first examination relieved and happy with their efforts. The HSC Examinations continued for the next couple of weeks and ran smoothly for the students

with COVID restrictions and the signing in process. Year 12 have maintained their dedication towards their studies, and I believe most of the students have achieved their best efforts and should be proud of their achievements. We are looking forward to celebrating their results at the Year 12 ATAR Breakfast held on 18<sup>th</sup> December at 9am.



## Ms Georgia Anton Career Adviser



### CAFE COURSE AT WETHERILL PARK

Each week a group of 15 Year 10 students head to Wetherill Park to do a short Cafe Course. In doing so, they are pretty much running the Café. They are making coffees and other hot beverages, preparing lunch, serving the public, complying with WH&S and whetting the appetite by making Mocktails. We definitely save the best for last!

I always look forward to seeing them on the Monday as their enthusiasm is infectious whilst they tell me about their latest ventures and skills that they have acquired.

The boys have done exceptionally well, where they step up to the plate and quickly adapt to being professional. They have done themselves, their school and their families proud. Great job guys led by a great team leader Imran Abou- Zeid who recruited very carefully.

Look forward to hearing about your next ventures and I know who I'll turn to if I ever feel like a career change - to move into the hospitality industry.

Well done Cafe team!



## Mr Martyn Bawden

### Literacy Support



**Parents** – Here are some of the important current issues in literacy and numeracy. Some of them impact directly on your son's credentialing, and all will affect his schooling!

#### **Year 7:**

Parents, don't forget to encourage your sons to complete their 20 minutes per evening, reading their Accelerated Reader books! The good reading habits that are being developed here, will benefit them hugely in the years to come.

#### **Year 8:**

Year 8 students have all commenced their weekly Google Classroom homework quizzes in literacy and numeracy skills, preparing for next year's NAPLAN tests. All Year 8 parents and students have been informed about these. Each quiz contains 15 questions, and gives an instant score, as well as detailed feedback in the areas of language, numeracy and reading comprehension. Deadline is each Sunday evening of Term, and they need to be completed, each week, by all Year 8 students. At the end of Term, parents will receive a mailed-home report of their sons' progress in the program.

#### **Year 9 students:**

Based on information from a number of sources, including the Check-in Assessments earlier this year, some Year 9 students are being asked to complete extra writing tasks to improve their confidence and skills before next year's Minimum Standards tests. Parents, if this is the case for your son, you will be contacted - please encourage and support these efforts! Writing skills pose a big problem, if not addressed early and with determination.

#### **Year 10 students:**

Catch-up Minimum Standards tests have been taking place, and will take place this Term, for those students who have not yet achieved those Standards in each of reading, writing and numeracy. Parents of affected students are informed by letter, each Term, of the dates of these tests, and support that is available to assist their sons. Our aim is to have all our students achieve all three Minimum Standards, required for the award of a Higher School Certificate.

Parents who wish to enquire about their sons' Minimum Standards status, and the support which is available, are very welcome to contact Mr Bawden at the school.

#### **Year 11 students:**

Nearly all Year 11 students have, by now, achieved their Minimum Standards in reading, writing and numeracy. Again, please contact Mr Bawden if needing more specific information.

#### **All students:**

Remember that Homework Help operates on Mondays and Tuesdays, after school for one hour in the library. Assistance, especially in literacy, is available at these times. Encourage your son to make use of this valuable time!

### **Again, if offered special support.....**



In each of Years 7-9, especially, some students will be identified by the school as needing extra support with areas of literacy or numeracy. In most cases, parents will be informed about these offers of support, and the reasons for them.

If such contact is made, the full support of parents is requested in encouraging their sons to make the most of such opportunities, which might include completing some special exercises outside of school hours, or attending after-school Homework Help sessions.

The aim is to correct weaknesses before they impact seriously on student learning – the earlier the intervention, the better!

### **If there are further enquiries....**

Please ring Mr Bawden (Literacy/numeracy Support Person) at the school (Tuesdays/Thursdays)  
Ph.: 9764 3611



## Ms Christina Papavramidis Prefect Co-ordinator



### HBHS Prefect Leadership Team



### 2019-2020

It has truly been an honour to serve as School Captain this year. My journey in student leadership began in Year 7 when I was elected into the SRC. Now, in my last year of schooling, I can certainly say I have learnt a great deal about being a leader. Leadership requires empathy, decisiveness, confidence and most of all resilience. Guiding the Prefect Body in 2020 has presented many challenges. Luckily, this unprecedented situation was made easier with the help of my fellow Captain, Tom Nieser, and Senior Prefect, Loklan Duong. Together, we considered issues, designed tasks, delegated roles and organised for the planning of events and meetings alike.

My role as Captain was to oversee the planning and execution of events, facilitate ideas introduced by my fellow Prefects, as well as address critical issues facing our student body such as mental health awareness and positive school culture. As a result of the COVID-19 situation we weren't able to accomplish all the goals we set out to achieve. However, we were able to show strength as a team by empowering and encouraging our cohort in these tough times.

Initially, the Prefect Body set out to improve school culture by highlighting the positive values of our school. Together, the Prefect Body developed the Bushy Boys Culture Initiative (BRO'S project) with the aim of developing a relationship between the Prefect Body and junior years. The BRO'S project focused on highlighting the core values, traditions and experiences of seniors into a program that would allow junior students to transition into opportunities within the wider community. I had a major role in developing this project which consisted of planning the layout of the program, creating the components, and guiding the teams associated with each year group.

The Prefect Body of 2020 strived to uphold the goodwill and reputation of the school. An early event which I, myself, had a major role in organising was "Two in a roll day". This day highlighted a prominent food staple within our school, the "Two in a roll", with the focus on helping the Australian community bounce back from the devastating Bushfires through raising money. Other events such as Men's Mental Health Day and the Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women focused on addressing key issues facing youth in our community.

As we are now nearing the end of our tenure as Prefects, the Prefect Body now has the focus on developing the newly elected Prefect Body, passing down our experiences while working as a team. Captaincy during 2020 has invited me to develop resolutions to a wide range of problems. The actions

of the current Prefect Body, and Year 12 cohort, have inspired me remarkably. I am, and always will be, devoted to uplifting and respecting my role as School Captain, and I look forward to continuing my contribution to the school and community in the future.

#### **School Captain 2019-2020**

**Zain Ousmand**

The past year for the prefect body has been a difficult road travelled, all of which is added to an already stressful year. In spite of this, the group has displayed significant resilience, still managing to organise and run a multitude of events across the year.

The first day after Prefect camp, Bassam, Ahmad and I were delegated to chair the indoor and outdoor graduation ceremonies for the preceding cohort, which was a great honour. In the following weeks of our new roles, the Prefect Body was tasked with running Movember, Men's Mental Health, and attending various prefect activities such as Prefect Afternoon Teas and the Remembrance Day ceremony. Our Prefect Body also started the HBHS Prefects Instagram page, allowing students and parents alike to access information.

In Term 1 of 2020, in response to the canteen losing highly valued items after coming under new management, Zain and myself decided to bring back an old favourite for a one day special; Two on a Roll Day. The money which was raised was donated to help those affected by the bushfires early in the year. The group had also hosted our own very successful Prefect Afternoon Tea, in which a diverse range of local schools attended. In the weeks after, the outbreak of COVID-19 began, and our duties of Prefect became much more difficult to fulfil. Meetings were stopped due to social distancing; events were cancelled because of crowds – our year of opportunity was slipping from our fingers.

Term 2 began online, making it next to impossible to run activities. But through the use of social media, we were able to stay connected to the cohort. Using our social media page, we were able to create a Thank You video, aimed at staff and teachers who went above and beyond during lockdown.

Term 3 saw the Prefect Body and Year 12 alike preparing for the Trials, making it even harder to run activities on top of everything else. As we finished our exams, we began to prepare for the end of year ceremonies, namely graduation activities and formal.

As our year as Prefect comes to a close, we begin to lay the foundation for the succeeding Prefect group, hoping to give them the best opportunity to represent and lead the school.

#### **Vice-Captain 2019-2020,**

**Tom Nieser**



Being selected as the senior prefect of the 2019/2020 student leadership body has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my high school journey as I aimed to fulfil all my duties to the highest quality. This role allowed me to expand my own leadership skills as I took charge of the prefect body and assisted in the execution of their leadership actions such as fundraisers. In my position I enjoyed and maintained fluid collaboration amongst my team and aided the coordination of all prefect initiatives where role delegation was my responsibility. I aimed to keep

everyone satisfied with their roles and peers in the team as well as play to everyone's unique strengths and areas of interest when delegating tasks and positions.

In the early stages of my role I was assigned with the task of creating a scaffold for the weekly meetings of the leadership body. I also created a weekly roster for the Tuesday morning assembly which is chaired by a different prefect each week. In addition to this, I timetabled a roster/schedule to organise the prefects into their daily canteen duties to maintain order in the lunch lines. In all these rosters I sought everyone's preferences and aimed to satisfy all needs.

As senior prefect I acted as a liaison between students and school administration and solved financial problems as well as issues regarding specific pupils such as behavioural issues in different age groups. In union with the School Captain and Vice-Captain, I delegated different prefects to different year groups to directly target areas of interest and improvement.

The senior prefect role requires meticulous organisation as well as moderation and empathy when considering other prefect's needs. As of writing this my largest contributions have been the aid in organising the Prefect Afternoon tea, where I delegated Minh Mai to take charge, as well as the running of fundraisers to help support the Australian bushfire crisis.

### **Senior Prefect 2019-2020**

**Loklan Duong**

'2020' was meant to be the year of opportunity and greatness, however that was not to be, early 2020 brought with it bushfires, floods and COVID19. Yet with all this devastation we have demonstrated, as Bushy Boys, the strong men that we are. We have exemplified the school motto, 'Recte Et Fortiter', 'Upright & Strong'. COVID-19 has affected our world, no one could have predicted the monumental distress that this pandemic would have on human life across the world, and the detrimental deaths and economic crashes destroying the lives and livelihoods of billions across the world. COVID-19 restricted our learning capacities, shut down our schools but we sought to stay 'upright & strong'. Mahatma Gandhi once said, *'every worthwhile accomplishment, big or little, has its stages of drudgery and*



*triumph: a beginning, a struggle, and a victory.'* I know that every single one of us has struggled this year, through either adapting to distance learning through zoom, google classroom and not having the ability to raise your voice and ask questions in class or hearing the echoing school bells, awaiting the lunch bell.

Before the pandemic, I had the privilege to lead and organise 'Men's Mental Health Day', where alongside the school counsellor and fellow school leaders, we demonstrated the importance of our minds and how to keep our mental health a priority. I personally discussed the importance of having control of what we need to do in order to be happy and how we must do our part in ensuring our friends are well, it starts with just a conversation in order to change a life.

I would like to take this final opportunity to thank all of you, my school community, my teachers and my friends, in helping develop and shape the 'bushy boy' that I am today. I would have never dreamt 5 years ago walking within the hallways of our school, the impact that Homebush Boys would have in shaping my future, and the lasting relationships and legacy that I will leave within Homebush Boys and take the ever-lasting memories and lessons learnt to put into practice within my personal life after school. I cannot wait for the new beginnings and experiences I will now experience within my next stages of life. As they say 'one chapter written, now another one to write'. I want you all to remember this and live by this, *'always try your best, never give up, the world really works in mysterious ways but if you start with developing your personal values you will never lose anything you should never give up in what you believe in because you can conquer your dreams, fight for everything that you truly believe in and never, ever give up!'*. Thank you 2020 and Homebush Boys!



#### **Prefect 2019-2020** **Ahmad Alameddine**

I was given the opportunity to engage in multiple activities throughout my time as Prefect of Homebush Boys High School 2020. Beginning with the "2 in a roll day", I was involved in the planning of this event, preparing the rolls and serving them to the students of our school. The vastly anticipated "Movember" and the activities associated with the event (such as the spray painting of the student's hair) were able to run smoothly thanks to the harmonised teamwork between myself and the other members of the Prefect body. For our Prefect afternoon tea where we invited Prefect's from other school's for team-building activities, my sole responsibility was to behave as the DJ, ensuring that the music played inside the hall was appropriate for the occasion, so that it provided a dynamic atmosphere for guests to bond with each other. Ultimately, it was the strong teamwork that our Prefect body had with each other which enabled us to carry out our duties as a team, so that we can represent our school with pride and improve the culture of our school. Hence, after this remarkable time as a Prefect of Homebush Boys High School, I am proud to say that "I was, and forever will be, a prefect of HBHS".

#### **Prefect 2019-2020** **Andrew Kim**

Through the Prefect body, my fellow Bushy Boys and I were able to voice the thoughts and concerns of our school community, prompting me to engage in change and school culture. Our determination to preserve our school roots and traditions, while aiding those in need in the midst of the bush fire tragedy, we all contributed to raising funds by selling two-in-a-roll sandwiches on our “two-in-a-roll day,” a day which deemed successful for the school community in maintaining our school culture. However, our need to conserve our school culture transcends two-in-a-roll, as we reached out to parents and families and exhibited our stunning school and achievements to upcoming year 7 students during Open Day. From the science labs and computing rooms to the arts and music departments, we exhibited the everlasting achievements of our Bushy Boys and their talents to the community, in aims of opening our doors to future talented and successful Bushy Boys whom will carry our legacy. This could not have been achieved without the synchronous planning and guided tour executed by our school leaders, the Prefects. Being part of the Prefect body was a pleasure for me, a rewarding experience which will be remembered till the end of time.

#### **Prefect 2019-2020**

**Ayman Kharbulti**

As a Prefect at Homebush Boys High school, we had encountered an immense amount of challenges as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite this, I had been able to provide a supporting role in various initiatives put forth throughout this academic school year. At the end of Term 4, the group had organised a “2 in a roll” day to raise money for firefighters who were confronting the Australian Bushfires that had been causing immense damage to the environment. This day involved bringing back the discontinued chicken fillet bread roll food item that had become iconic at the school over the years. As a part of this, my role was assembling the food that we were selling. It was an exhausting but rewarding experience allowing us to raise almost \$1000 for our first charity fundraiser. A program that had been initiated among the Prefects was to split into small groups to foster greater relationships with the younger year groups. Assigned to the Year 7 group, we had been able to participate in one of their year assemblies where we could chat with them about the transition into high school. By making ourselves known and available to them, we were able to provide them with a source of support if they were hesitant or unsure of anything related to high school.



Along with the routine canteen and supervision duties in Term 4 and Term 1, we were able to become closer to the Year 7 cohort at Homebush Boys. Additionally, I have been involved in a supportive role at various perfect initiatives included our Afternoon Tea and Covid-19 Thank You Video. 2020 has been an extremely challenging year with lockdown for most of the Term severely constricting our ability to plan and execute new events. However, as a Prefect at Homebush Boys High School, I am grateful for the various initiatives that we had conducted this year amidst the ongoing difficulties we faced.

#### **Prefect 2019-2020**

**Sai Bhonsle**

As a prefect in 2019/20 working hard alongside my team, I have done what I can to help our school and local community. Working tirelessly alongside charities and organisations such UBelong and Beyond Blue with our limited time during this long hard period, our Year 9 leaders and I have done what we can and have been as respectful as we can be with all our colleagues. Through tough times and difficult situations, I have tried my best to help in every way possible to balance both my study and prefect work and has been a good experience overall.

**Prefect 2019-2020**

**Adam Farrouk**

In my tenure as school Prefect, I have been presented with a wide range of opportunities that allowed me to provide my personal input towards changing the school for the better. One of these was becoming a group leader at Year 7 camp, which helped me meet some of the new students and connect with them, giving them some advice for high school life. One other opportunity in which I gave my contribution as a prefect leader was the co-organising of our school's Prefect Afternoon Tea, where Prefects from various schools came to HBHS to discuss and share initiatives and events that they were planning on holding, alongside the rest of the prefect team. Overall, being a Prefect has been an engaging experience, not just because of the events organised and attended, but also because of the experience itself.

**Prefect 2019-2020**

**Alvin Sumadiredja**

As prefect I worked closely with Rishabh and Prajit in overseeing the Year 8 group (2020), especially in giving presentations on various issues such as 'Respect and Bullying' and preparing the 'Anti-violence Against Women' day, facilitating the group's entry into Homebush Boys' school culture. For 'Anti-violence against Women' Day, I contacted Ms Diane Humphries to be the speaker at the assembly and helped planning the event's organisation with Rishabh and Prajit. I also contributed by helping the Prefects with preparing the fundraising event 'Two in a Roll' by buying suppliers, organising the tables and preparing the rolls for sale.

**Prefect 2019-2020**

**Duy Quang Mai**

As a Prefect, I was given an opportunity to better the school, and wider community, working as member of the collective, making contributions, whilst undertaking a variety of roles. Although we were hindered by the tumultuous nature of this year, I feel our efforts have made a positive impact on the school, and students to come. One of our initial initiatives was, "Movember," a month dedicated to men's health, characterised by the growth of one's Stache. I made an attempt to take part in doing so, a futile attempt, but an attempt, nonetheless. I also took part in our fundraising for the relief of those affected by the devastating bushfires, bringing back the infamous, "Two in a Roll," to bring back what was lost. In connecting with the community, and students to come, I participated in the Year 7 orientation, interacting with parents, and primary school students, showing them around the school, highlighting the opportunities this school has to offer.

**Prefect 2019-2020**

**Kevin Duong**

My year as a Homebush Boys' High School Prefect has been filled with ups and downs, twists and turns and plenty of enjoyable and meaningful experiences, activities and events. From our insanely hectic Prefect Camp to our iconic 2-in-a-roll day, being a Prefect this year has been absolutely amazing. It has also been a challenging and testing experience, such as planning our Prefect Afternoon Tea, rushing to finish our posters for various school events or simply finding enough bread for our Two-in-a-rolls, the road has been a long, difficult but enjoyable one. The friendship and bond our Prefect body shares is truly phenomenal and one that will last a lifetime. It has been an absolute honour to represent Homebush Boys' this year, and no one will say it but I am by far the best Prefect.



#### **Prefect 2019-2020**

**Minh Mai**

As a prefect of Homebush Boys in 2020, I was given the opportunity to participate in numerous activities throughout the year. Firstly, my team raised awareness for White Ribbon Day by preparing ribbons and asking students across various year groups to write what it means for them to be a man. I and other members of the body went around the school putting the ribbons up around the school. I also took part in raising funds for the bushfire relief campaign and was involved in the promotion and planning of "2-in-a roll day", by making announcements on the PA and serving the rolls to the students. "Movember" is another important event that I had taken part in as we received donations from the students for spray-painting their hair. Through engaging in these and various other events, I was able to form a greater bond with the prefect body and the school.

#### **Prefect 2019-2020**

**Prajit Palakurthy**



Prefects at Homebush Boys High School, this year, took the initiative of raising awareness and encouraging young men to stand up for positive change. My part included planning for events and ensuring a smooth execution of all parts of the collective initiative planned. This involved an assembly with Strathfield Girls High School and placing signs around the school spreading vital information. As an individual my role also included speeches at assembly to encourage young individuals to be part of the change that the Prefect body aim for at HBHS. Moreover, as the symbol of promise to end violence against women a white flower, was gifted to Strathfield Girls' High School.

This initiative was conducted with a simple goal to set an example as a school leader that violence against any individual is not acceptable. Therefore, the goal surely was to help raise awareness but also send out a message that we stand together on this issue. Hopefully, some progress was made through the initiative.

#### **Prefect 2019-2020**

**Rishabh Somani**



Through this year as prefects we have faced many disruptions and not been able to do everything we have set out to do, because of COVID-19. However, given the lack of time we had, many of us still managed to achieve some of our goals and run some successful events. All prefects including myself were involved in the '2 on a Roll Day' which was our most successful event we held all year. I also managed to attend year 7 camp as a mentor with many of my other prefects which was a fantastic experience and allowed us to create bonds with the younger years. During the year myself and two other prefects, Minh Mai and Srikar Danthurty, planned, organised and ran our PAT (prefect afternoon tea). This PAT ended up being one of the better ones being held as we were told by the prefects from other schools who attended. All in all, although disrupted, myself and many other prefects managed to run successful events and achieve a few of our goals.

### **Prefect 2019-2020 Carl Arthur**

To be a prefect this year has been difficult, with the HSC constantly looming and a global pandemic constantly at our tail, it has been close to impossible to complete and achieve the holistic sense of school culture we were striving for at the beginning of the year. Despite these hardships myself and my peers in the prefect body have strived and provided opportunities for everyone to grow and to make the school a better place.

My role within the prefect body was communication liaison. I was responsible for writing articles for the school website. Some pieces I have written include the HBHS Prefect Induction Day, Remembrance Day Service- 2019, The National Young Leader's Conference and the Bushfire Appeal "2 in a Roll day". Furthermore, I have participated in the BRO program created by the prefects, unfortunately this wasn't able to develop and flourish due to unforeseen circumstances, inhibiting our aim of increasing culture within the school. As well as this, I have inputted and written proposals, some maybe too ambitious but nonetheless all in the light of improving the holistic school community, being the implementation of a biofuel generator within the school which would produce methane, to be used as fuel for cooking, and fertiliser, for the garden and also for the use of the community around the school. Unfortunately, this wasn't able to come into fruition due to logistical technicalities. Additionally, I had taken on the responsibility of organising a year book for the graduating class of 2020 where a culmination of photos from their time at HBHS, quotes and goals, will provide a point of nostalgia for them now looking back at their younger years and in 10 years' time to see how far they have come.

Overall, my time in the Prefect was enjoyable, and I had experiences which I wouldn't have been able to do otherwise, but I feel as though we couldn't achieve as much as we might have.



**Prefect 2019-2020**  
**Anshul Trevedi**



Over this fantastic and whirlwind year I have thoroughly enjoyed and cherished the opportunity of being a part of Homebush Boys High School



Prefect Body 2019/20. My main contribution to the school was being the creator of the school's first ever prefect Instagram account. I wanted to create this account as a way for the prefects to effectively communicate with the other year groups about our events, promotions, and messages. It successfully took off with over 300 students following the account and many more visiting the account frequently. I am very proud of the impact it has had on the school. Along with the Instagram account I helped with the running of the World's Greatest Shave, White Ribbon Day, Year 7 Orientation Day, 2-in-a-roll Day, Harmony Day, and the creation of our 'Thank You' message to our school's staff members. I also frequently visited other schools for afternoon tea where I collaborated with other school leaders and gained ideas for ways to help improve our school and leave a lasting impact for future years. With one of the ideas being the creation of a yearbook for the Year 12 group, which we have done. Overall the prefect experience was one to remember for a lifetime and I hope I left an everlasting positive impact on the school and the community. Thank you all for the experiences!

**Prefect 2019-2020**  
**Viraj Srikar Danthurty**

**Prefect Update Term 4 2020**  
**Written by Mrs Christina Papavramidis**  
**Prefect Coordinator**

At the beginning of Term 4, we farewelled our wonderful student leadership team, the Prefect Team 2019-2020. We thanked them for all their achievements and energetic effort in supporting the student body to achieve their personal and academic growth and helping the school community to develop strong, independent, future focussed learners. At the same time, we welcomed the new Prefect Team of 2020-2021. Congratulations to:

<b>Captain</b>	Ishu RAWAT
<b>Vice-Captain</b>	James WARK David KADAMANI
<b>Sports Captain</b>	Rahim KAMARA
<b>Senior Prefect</b>	Leo SIMON
<b>PR Communications</b>	Siddhant JETHALIYA
<b>Community Links- Primary Schools</b>	Haren KUMARALINGAM Arzaqy ABDUL AZIS
<b>Community Links- High Schools</b>	Daniel AARON Stephen WILCOX
<b>Social Media</b>	Matthew-Rowan JACKSON Merton CHENG
<b>Community Services</b>	Titus CHAROENSRI
<b>Fundraiser Liaison</b>	Simon AYOUB Harry OBEROI
<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Link</b>	Benjamin HUANG Edmund WONG
<b>Year 9 &amp; 10 Link</b>	Yoshua TSANG Sisitautai TAUFA
<b>Year 11 &amp; 12 Link</b>	Si Kun RONG

After being democratically elected by the student body and their teachers, the incumbent prefects attended a 2 day Conference held at school on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020, to build leadership and team work.

At the start of Term 4, the School Captain, Ishu Rawat and the leadership team worked together to support the outgoing Year 12's in their final assembly and graduation.

**Below is an inspiring article written by Ishu Rawat.**

## **PREFECT VISION STATEMENT 2020/2021**

*"Be the environment where voices are heard and needs are met"*

It gives me, great honour to be elected as the School Captain of 2020-2021. As the leader of the student body, I strongly believe that through our actions, we will be the change we seek.

The prefect body is committed to uphold the morals and values with integrity that have echoed in the traditional walls of our school. As a team, our strength lies in our ability to recognise the importance of our peers as individuals thus inspiring our vision statement to "Be the environment where voices are heard and needs are met."

I would like to thank Mrs Papas, Ms Player and Mr Elgood for providing us with a sensational leadership conference over the course of two days. The team had an excellent opportunity to understand the roles and responsibilities that came with being a prefect.

The highlight of the first day was definitely the scavenger hunt because in my perspective it showcased the range of mindset that was woven into our leadership body as some chose to approach the activity with a creative flair, while others opted to be more analytical. It is to me no wonder why my peers approached me with ideas packed with solutions to implement, as the domination of inspiring quotes from Mrs Papas was sure to have heightened the morale of the prefects. Lastly, the conference concluded with a relaxing meditation session designed by Mrs Chapman, which left us feeling calm and rejuvenated.

Ishu Rawat  
**School Captain**  
**2020/2021**

## **Ms Christina Papavramidis** **Head Teacher Social Science**



### **2020 Australian Geography Competition**

**By: Mrs Christina Papavramidis**

Seven students from Year 11 Geography tested their geographical skills and knowledge against students from all around Australia in the 2020 Australian Geography Competition.

It has been a challenging year for schools with the pandemic, so we were happy to still be able to give our students the opportunity to test themselves against students from all around Australia, with over 65,000 students entering the competition this year. The Competition is aimed at encouraging student interest in geography and to reward student excellence.

We recently received the results and were pleased with how the students of HBHS performed.

Of the seven students who completed the exam, one student ranked in the top 10% of the state receiving a High Distinction, one received a credit and the remainder received participation awards.

### **High Distinction**

Joseph Wang



### **Credit**

PJ Pene

### **Participation Award**

Nicholas Valenzuela

Taaha Tobbie

Theeshan Neshabalan

Mingchu Han

Simon Ayoub



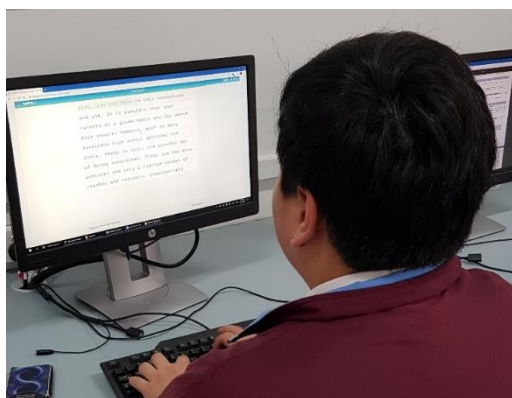
### **Business Services (VET)**

Term 4 has been an engaging time for all Business Services studies. This term there is a key focus on improving student's keyboard speed and accuracy. All students have been training to improve their accuracy and words per minute via online typing lessons. Students implement ergonomic work procedures and follow set by set instructions to learn touch typing skills. Over the course of a few weeks all students drastically improved their results.

They conducted five minute typing tests at the start of each lesson to trace their improvement over time. In week 3, the classroom turned into an NBA finals style format where students were grouped against each in a round robin tournament. As the games went on students progressed to a knockout best of 3 typing race. Only a few boys remained and the finalists were Tyler Linker and Woojae Jang. Both students played a best a 7 typing test, with Tyler coming out victorious 4 matches to 2. The classroom is always finding ways to incorporate student voice and evolve with creative activities.

**Mr Elie Kisso**

**Business Services (VET) Teacher**



## Mr Abderrahim Abbou

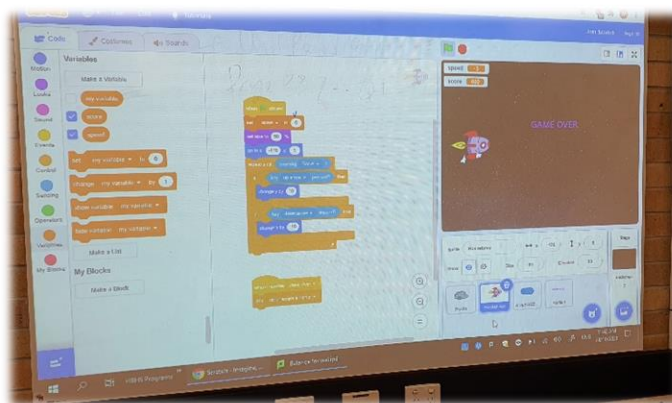
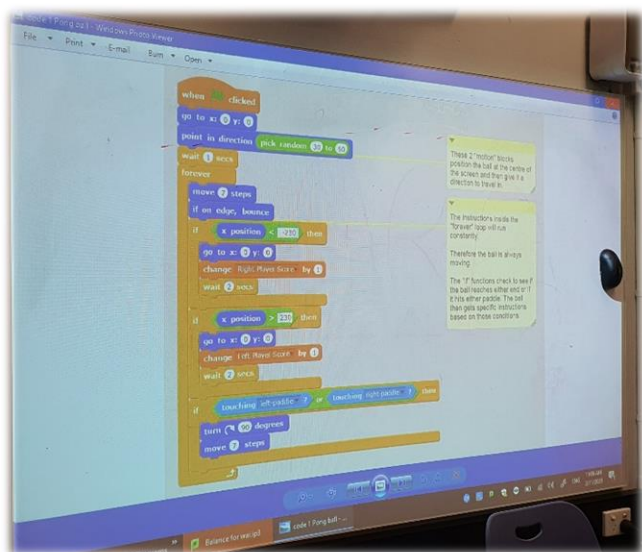
### Rel. Head Teacher Technical and Applied Science



### Digital Technology in class

Technology is part of our everyday lives and it is crucial to learn about the essential aspects of digital technology, and how it all works. As a Teacher of Mandatory Technology in the TAS faculty at Homebush Boys High School I have been teaching students examples of the latest and future technologies/AI technologies and how they work. I have also been teaching students the main tools involved in a coding program called 'Scratch'. The program contains easy to use tools where students learn about and adapt to the codes involved in creating games, animations and many other interesting things. After getting accustomed to the program they will have an opportunity to create their own coding games and animations. Overall, I believe that technology is very important for students to adapt to in this ever-changing world.

### Mr Wai Ip



## Ms Rashmi Singh Year 9 Adviser



The Year 9 IST students participated in the ICAS -Digital technologies examination in Week 2 term 4.

The students were well prepared as they had practiced previous year's examination paper. The examination was online based and each student used their individual login and password to write the examination.

ICAS Assessments are conducted by University of NSW and are designed to recognise academic excellence, students are assessed on their ability to apply classroom learning to new contexts using higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills.

The students were assessed on their skills and knowledge in the areas of:

- Databases
- Graphics and multimedia
- Internet use and email programs
- Networks and other communications systems
- Operating systems and computer hardware
- Programming and scripting
- Spreadsheets
- Word processing

Mr. Abbou, Mr Arun and Ms Singh were the facilitators. We are proud that the whole examination process which went without any problems. Congratulations teachers and students.

We are eagerly waiting the results that should be in by the end of November.



## 2021 school travel applications are now open

To assist with any enquiries schools may receive about student travel applications, we have provided some information below. We have also attached an information sheet on School Travel for 2021 if you wish to share this in your school newsletter.

Applications for student travel in 2021 opened on Monday 12 October 2020.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass for 2021 can now apply online. A new application should be submitted if a student is applying for a school travel pass for the first time or requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who have changed school/campus, changed address, repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should re-apply or update their details.

Where there is a change of distance eligibility based on a student's grade, the system will automatically update a student's entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new eligibility criteria, they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition which is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

Term Bus Pass holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

Applications need to be submitted before **31 December 2020** to ensure that current student entitlements are updated and their current entitlement/card remains valid. If their application is submitted after 31 December 2020, the system will automatically cancel an entitlement/card and a new one will need to be issued.

Students in the Opal network applying for a SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2021.

Students residing in Rural and Regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the commencement of the new school year from their nominated operator, this may be distributed via the school or sent direct to their address. **Note:** some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students/Parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

## School travel application endorsements

It is not uncommon for applicants completing the online form to make mistakes, particularly entering their name or date of birth instead of the students. This may be due to an auto-fill function on a device or just human error. We ask that school administrators be cautious of this and do not endorse applications with incorrect information.

If you are aware of or see an obvious error, you can amend the first name, date of birth or grade of a student's travel application by clicking in the relevant row on the portal. Please ensure you have confirmed the information before making any changes. Refer to page 16 of the *School Portal User Guide* for further instructions. The latest version of the user guide is accessible within the School Portal by clicking the arrow next to your username.

If a student's details cannot be confirmed or they are not yet enrolled, please do not endorse the application. By selecting 'no' the application will be rejected and the applicant will be informed. They will then need to submit a new application.

In the event that school administrators endorse an application in error, it would be appreciated if you could advise our SSTS team as soon as possible so the application can be intercepted before an Opal card or travel pass is issued.

To contact us about an endorsement error, please go to: <https://transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback> and select feedback about: 'school student transport scheme' and then select 'application updates'.

If school administrators require access to the School Portal, please request an account at <https://appln.transport.nsw.gov.au/portal/requests/account/school>

If you have staff that have left the school recently and had access to the school portal, please let us know at <https://transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback> and select 'school/operator portal' and then 'remove existing user access' so their access can be removed.

## New Concession Entitlement Cards

You can now order the new Transport Concession Entitlement Cards (TCEC) through the Transport for NSW School Portal.

The Transport Concession Entitlement Card will replace the following cards:

- Senior Secondary Student Concession Card (16 years and over) – also used by Mature Secondary Students (18 years and over), Distance Education Students and Home School Students
- Proof of Age card (when a student under 16 years of age looks older)
- Boarder Rail Pass

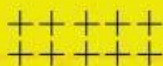
# WE WANT YOU!

Do you want the opportunity to **voice** your opinions and engage in youth activities in your local community?

Strathfield Council are looking for young people aged between **12-24** to join our newly reformed **Collaborative Youth Working Group**.



If you are interested in being a part of this great opportunity, please send an email with your **name, email, contact number, the school you attend and the grade you are in** to **[communityservices@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communityservices@strathfield.nsw.gov.au)** and one of the Community Development staff at Council will contact you.



If you have any further questions regarding the youth group, email **[communityservices@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communityservices@strathfield.nsw.gov.au)** or call **9748 9999**.



# CALLING ALL ACTORS

O'GRADY DRAMA IS  
LOOKING FOR HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS FOR OUR  
YOUTH STUDIO.

STRATHFIELD UNITING  
CHURCH HALL  
15 CARRINGTON AVE  
WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE,  
SO HURRY TO BOOK  
YOUR PLACE!

CONTACT PRINCIPAL MEL DUKE

0435 566 238

# FREE ONLINE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAM

Do you want to be fitter, healthier  
and happier?

FREE ONLINE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAM

*Think, Eat and Move*



FOR 13-17 YEAR OLDS WHO ARE ABOVE A HEALTHY WEIGHT

The TEAM Program is a free, fun and interactive way for teenagers to learn  
about nutrition, physical activity and behaviour change.

See below to register now!

**CHECK ELIGIBILITY!**  
thinkeatandmove.org  
1300 899 736



SOCIAL MEDIA  
@thinkeatandmoveprogram  
Funded by Central and Eastern  
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## FREE ONLINE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAM FOR 13-17 YEAR OLDS

WEEKLY ONLINE ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH COACHING

**FREE FITNESS TRACKER  
AND OTHER RESOURCES!**  
(valued at over \$150)



COMPLETE ON YOUR PHONE, TABLET OR COMPUTER



**CHECK ELIGIBILITY NOW!**  
thinkeatandmove.org  
1300 899 736



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