

HBHS BUSH BULLETIN



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Principal Mr Kevin Elgood



2020 comes to an end! What an amazing year it has been. We made it through without a COVID closure, although we had contingency plans to activate at any moment should an issue have arisen. A very different end to the year also but there has been enough said about that, I look forward to moving onto greater opportunities in 2021.

HSC results

Congratulations to the Year 12 class of 2020 who have achieved outstanding results in the HSC under such trying circumstances. We held a celebration Breakfast for our Year 12 students today giving us the opportunity to congratulate our boys and celebrate their success.



Presentation Assemblies 2020

COVID restrictions meant Presentation Day 2020 could not proceed as normal, to ensure that we had the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of 2020 we organised Presentation Year Assemblies. The Presentation Assemblies were an amazing celebration of achievement and talent and a great testament to the achievements of the whole school community during 2020. The assemblies were recorded and placed on our website for parents and students to view.

My thanks to all the staff and boys who assisted in the organisation of the day. Thank you especially to Ms Lidia Budanovic who ensured that the day was perfect.

Farewell

At the end of each year we farewell staff who leave for promotions, retirement or new challenges. This year we are farewelling a number of teachers and support staff:

Congratulations to:

Mr Syarief Achmad – who was promoted to Deputy Principal at Chester Hill High School

Mr Joel Howard – who was promoted to Deputy Principal at Cecil Hills High School

Best wishes to:

Mrs Jaspreet Kaur – from the Mathematics faculty who has transferred to Baulkham Hills High School

Best wishes also to the teachers who have filled temporary positions this year:

Mr Enver Kerem – from the PD/Heath/PE faculty and Sports Coordinator;

Mr Steve Casey – from the English faculty;

Mr Ani Rao – From the Social Sciences faculty;

Ms Jessica Cham – From the CAPA faculty; and

Mr George Cayas – From the CAPA faculty.

Farewell also to Daniella Negro from our Ancillary Staff and the Canteen staff before that.

We thank all of these teachers and support staff for the great contribution they have made to the students of Homebush Boys High School and wish them great success and happiness in the future.

Best wishes for the festive season

I would like to say that it has been a pleasure to work with the students, parents, teachers and support staff at Homebush Boys this year. On behalf of the whole school community I wish every family a very merry Christmas, a happy new year and a wonderful holiday. I hope that all boys enjoy the rest and relaxation that the summer holidays provide and look forward to returning to school fresh for 2021.

Mr Kevin Elgood
Principal



Ms Catherine Player

Deputy Principal (Year 7 & 10)



2020 – The Year in review

As we come to the end of the year, it is a time to reflect on the achievements and events of the year. It has definitely been a different year, where one moment we are teaching students face-to-face and the next minute we are teaching remotely through zoom and google classroom. Graduations and presentations days are streamed, and parent teacher evenings were done over the phone. Through it all we have continued to show that bushy boy spirit.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their efforts in adapting to the ever-changing environment that was the Covid period. Their dedication to our students to continue to create and deliver high quality lessons, as well as engage in professional learning to develop and enhance their skills, is a testament to their commitment to our students, your sons. The resilience of our students to adapt to change, especially during Covid, was wonderful to see. They experienced something that none of us had ever been through and they worked hard to learn a new way to learn and engage online with their teachers and peers, and continued to grow and flourish. And finally, to the parents and guardians who supported our students through this period, Thank you. We are truly lucky to have such a supportive community. At the end of the day, this roller coaster year has produced outstanding results, great learning experiences and a world of opportunities for the students and staff of HBHS.

Year 7

This has been an exciting year for Year 7, their first year in high school and something to be celebrated. It has been an interesting year for them and they have done a great job navigating the changes and new experiences they have encountered this year. They should be proud of all their efforts this year. I know I am proud of them as their Deputy Principal.

Throughout this year they have proven themselves in the classroom with some outstanding results, on the sporting field, as leaders in our environmental team, as SRC leaders, artists and musicians and even as budding film makers. The film created by Year 7 is now being shown to Primary Schools with rave reviews.

Year 7 have developed their talents and shared their gifts with the school community and we are richer for it and I would like to acknowledge their achievements and contributions to our school in and beyond the classroom. They have certainly proven to be wonderful assets to the school.

Looking ahead to next year, I hope they remember the lessons they learnt this year about respect, commitment to their studies and working hard to achieve their goals. In Year 8, I challenge them to set their goals even higher, ensure learning is their first priority in the classroom, treat everyone with respect and be proud to call themselves Bushy Boys.

I look forward to supporting them on their learning journey next year as they develop their many skills and talents. Thanks to Mr Lee and Ms Khan for all their hard work as Year 7 Year Advisors this year. It has been a pleasure working with them.

A memorable first year in high school.



Year 10

It is a pleasure to celebrate the many outstanding achievements of Year 10 at the end of a productive year where they have worked hard and achieved amazing things

It has been an interesting year full of challenges, however, their resilience and perseverance ensured they kept working hard towards their goals, with many of them already on their future pathways. Students have been engaging in white card training, brick laying courses, the Big History Project with Macquarie University and Australian Business Week for our budding entrepreneurs just to name a few. It has been great to see them engaging in programs that are setting them up for future success and developing their critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills.

Throughout this year they have proven themselves in the classroom with some outstanding results, on the sporting field, as leaders in the SRC and interact, as artists, musicians and drum corps leaders, and future entrepreneurs. They never cease to amaze me with their array of talents and desire to be a part of the fabric of the Homebush community. And, throughout the year, they have developed and extended their talents and shared their gifts with the school community and we are richer for it.

Next year, they will be the seniors of the school. I hope they remember the lessons they learnt this year about respect, commitment to their studies and working hard to achieve their goals. I have high expectations for them and will work hard with them to ensure learning is their first priority in the classroom, that they treat everyone with respect and chase their dreams. I challenge them to set their goals high for the next two years as they work towards their future. I hope they Dream big, work hard and make it happen.

I look forward to supporting them on their learning journey next year. I would like to thank their Year Advisors Ms Cunneen and Ms Carasco for all their hard work this year guiding and supporting you.



Wishing all the families, students and our community a safe and happy holiday. Looking forward to seeing Years 7, 11 and 12 on 29/1/2021 and the whole school on Monday 1/2/2021.



Mrs Anna Paleothodoros

Deputy Principal (Year 9 & 12)

Year 12 Final Weeks



2020 will be a period etched in history as being a most extraordinary time. We have witnessed devastating bushfires, floods and a world-wide pandemic which has touched our lives forever. We have been through lockdown, virtual remote learning and not being able to meet up with our extended family and friends for birthdays, weddings and other important family occasions. Despite this, we are very proud of the strength, determination and tenacity that our fine young men have shown us by adapting and getting through this difficult time. We especially thank parents who supported them during this period and throughout the year. We also thank the wonderful teachers who guided and mentored our students, by not only instilling the love of learning but also life lessons that that will take with them throughout their lives.



Term 1 began with high expectations set by Mr Elgood in his welcoming address to all students. Year 12 study groups were established to develop and maintain good study habits and routines with teachers and peers in a caring, supportive and collaborative learning environment. These skills were vital during lock down where students were required to be independent learners and to seek support and guidance by their teachers through online learning platforms.

We were fortunate enough to attend the school's Swimming Carnival before the COVID-19 restrictions came into place and it was great to see Year 12 celebrate their last Swimming Carnival in true Bushy Boys Style. They dressed up, had fun together and swam their final laps of the Olympic pool as Year 12 students.

Term 2 began with all the school on online learning and Year 12 were given priority to resume their face to face learning at school. During lockdown, both staff and students began their online learning journey which was at times a struggle for all. We spent countless hours in google classroom lessons, chats and Moodle and missed our traditional face to face interactions with our students. They also missed us. The school continued to get back to normal even though sport was cancelled, as well as major events such as NAPLAN for Year 9, school excursions, community events and interactions with our wider school community.



Term 3 and Term 4 highlights included **Year 9 classroom visits**, such as Year 9 Commerce classes successfully organising a Market Day with their teachers and had huge success in making profit by selling wonderful food and deserts to not only to a huge crowd of students but also staff. Year 9 students were also busy this term completing their major assessment tasks in several subjects such as Industrial Technology - Timber, Electronics and Metal and they are putting their final touches towards achieving excellent projects. Ms Karas' Year 9 English class were involved in a deep discussion about Romeo and Juliet "The star-crossed lovers" and it is always a pleasure to witness students who are highly engaged in their learning and are motivated in achieving their personal best.

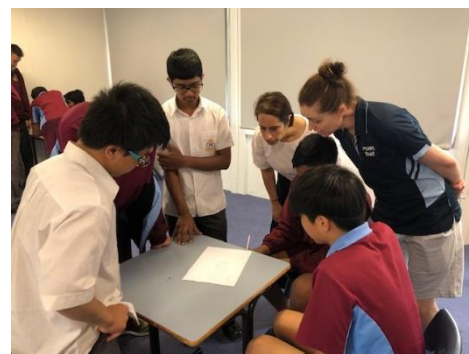


Year 9 Peer Support Training in Term 4

Year 9 students were involved in Peer Support Training which involved **Resilience** -focusing on supporting students to learn and practise strategies to enable growth.



Anti-bullying - Promoting a strengths-based approach to reduce harmful behaviours and develop strategies to strengthen and repair relationships and - Influence **& Integrity** providing students with opportunities to consider factors influencing individuals and communities,



and how they can communicate and act as respectful people of integrity. The program was very successful, and I would like to thank Ms Chapman and Ms Kamil for organising the training sessions for students and to all the staff who participated in training Year 9. It was the most successful training yet!

Year 9 and 10 White Card Training

On Friday 4 December Year 9 and 10 students participated in training for a White Card which was a very successful outcome for all the students involved. This is a mandatory requirement for all personnel working in a construction site. It is gained by completing a face-to-face or online government mandated course through a registered training organisation. The students were very engaged and pleased to obtain their White Card as it opens up their opportunities in the Building Industry in the future. I would like to thank Ms Anton and Mr Abbou for organising this course at our school as it has been very popular with our students.



Year 12 Graduation Ceremony was Live streamed for parents and the wider school community on Wednesday 14 October. The ceremony was very memorable, 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 touching to see Year 12 finally graduating in the school hall and reaching this wonderful milestone in their lives. I would again 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.



HSC 2020 Examinations ran very smoothly regardless of COVID-19 social distancing rules still in place. The students adapted very well to the new procedures and managed to do their best in their examinations. At times it has been a struggle for all of us, but we have met these challenges and



our Year 12 young men have grown stronger. We are all proud of their efforts this year by demonstrating



resilience, support for one another and great leadership at a very unusual and challenging time. The whole school community, including Mr Burke and Mr Johnston (Year Advisers),

would like to wish the Graduating Class of 2020 all the best for the HSC and their future aspirations.

Year 12 Clearance Day

Year 12 Clearance Day was very successful as approximately 120 students finalised their clearance. They seemed happy, upbeat and relieved that the HSC was over and enjoyed their discussions with Mr Elgood about their future aspirations. They visited their teachers with wonderful gifts and were issued an invitation to celebrate their successes at the **ATAR Breakfast on Friday 18 December** with us. We can't wait to share your stories.



Year 7 2021 Orientation Day

The Year 7 2021 Orientation Day was held on Tuesday 1 December at our school. It was a very successful event coordinated by Mr Kisso (Year 7 Adviser 2021) even though parents were not present at the event. To ensure that all the information was accessible to parents, videos were posted on our website outlining key programs, personnel, wellbeing, sport and literacy programs, as well as "A day in the life of a Year 7 student." The incoming Year 7 students felt at ease and supported by our wonderful prefects and SRC students, staff and Wellbeing Team. I would like to thank all staff and students who assisted in this wonderful event. We cannot wait to meet our wonderful Year 7 students and their parents next year.



2021 at Strathfield Girls High School

An opportunity has presented itself late this term to build our partnerships with Strathfield Girls High School and I have embraced this opportunity as being a chance to broaden my skills and deepen my experience of how different schools operate. This means for 2021 I will be working as Deputy Principal at Strathfield Girls whilst Jennie Dalamagas (Deputy Principal SGHS) will take my place at this school. I will miss the staff, students, parents and wider school community at Homebush Boys but there will be plenty of opportunities for the two schools to collaborate in various projects next year. I wish you all the best for 2021, Merry Christmas to those who celebrate this wonderful occasion, have a great break and Happy New Year to all.

Mr Joel Howard

Rel. Deputy Principal (Year 8 & 11)



For those that haven't heard, I have accepted a position at Cecil Hills High School next year as a substantive Deputy Principal. I have had an unbelievable time here at Homebush. From day 1 I knew that I would love it here as the staff and students were so welcoming. The students here truly are great. Coming from a very different school, it took a while to get used to students thanking me for a great lesson (even when they were average), thanking me for coaching their grade or knockout team and just greeting me politely each day. It's easy to lose sight of the great elements and what makes this school fantastic when you are here for a long time. Having worked in other schools, I know just how great the students at Homebush Boys High School are and I will miss the students dearly. Some highlights for me are coaching grade and knockout sporting teams, Duke of Ed camps and bushwalks, chatting to students in the playground, class brain breaks and the many laughs that I have had with all my classes. One of the most rewarding things of being a teacher is the metamorphosis that occurs in the students. Watching them develop from the junior years and grow into improved versions of themselves is definitely a perk of the job. And that is something that Homebush Boys High School does extremely well and all staff should be proud of this.

I will also miss the staff immensely. They go above and beyond to make sure that they are doing the best job they can for their students. It has been great working alongside so many dedicated professional and I have learned a great deal from many in my time at Homebush Boys High School.

Thank you to staff, students and the community for making my time here so great.

Mr Sam Widmer

Rel. Head Teacher Support Unit



Homebush Boys High School is establishing a Support Unit in 2021 that will consist of three classes to support students on the Autism Spectrum. These classes will support our students through specialist and experienced teachers, smaller class sizes, one-to-one assistance from School Learning and Support Officers (SLSOs) in every classroom, purpose-designed learning spaces and through implementation of the Australian curriculum. Furthermore and most importantly, Homebush Boys High School will aim to create and foster an inclusive learning environment to not only fulfil but exceed its commitment to supporting students with Autism. I encourage all staff and students to come and introduce yourselves to the New Year 7's starting in the Support Unit. Students are taught the exact same content as students in mainstream classes although they are encouraged to demonstrate their knowledge in different ways. We have had three successful transition days that involved a school tour with the prefects and a fantastic cooking lesson with Ms Houvardas and Ms Bolbol to introduce the boys to life at high school. It also involved an awesome PE lesson with Ms Fitzsimmons. It is a unique and exciting opportunity for the Homebush Boys community to establish an inclusive culture for students with Autism throughout all facets of the school that thrives for years to come.





Ms Georgia Anton Career Adviser



Big History for Big Brains

The big history course is an interdisciplinary study of change over time from the Big Bang to the future. BHP requires students to draw upon the latest findings in history, the sciences, and the social sciences, including astronomy, physics, biology, geography, geology, climatology, archaeology, anthropology, cosmology, demography, and environmental studies. Consequently, the course introduces students to important ideas and discoveries and gives them an idea of how those have changed our understanding of the Universe and our place within it. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the big history course a potential exists to engage with the Australian Curriculum across a multitude of Learning Areas to meet the core knowledge, understanding, skills and general capabilities identified as foundational for the future learning of all Australian students. The content scope of the BHP course combined with a pedagogical focus on critical thinking skills and embedded opportunities for Problem Based Learning allow the flexibility to meet Australian Curriculum requirements within a Learning Area or as part of an integrated curriculum model.

As of Week 5, two lessons a week have been allocated to facilitate this course where students will be given the opportunity to collaborate, brainstorm and seek the expertise from Michelle Degney. The students chose dates and times based on their assessment schedule.

By partaking in this program it will enrich the students' knowledge, enable them to work autonomously as well as collaborate in groups. Furthermore, it will equip them for tertiary study.

Another success for our Bushy Boys. The photos provided are a testament to this.





Martyn Bawden Literacy Program

Parents – Here are some final important literacy and numeracy issues for the year!

Year 7: Thank you for encouraging your sons to do extra reading at home over the course of the year! These good reading habits will help him for the rest of his life. Keep it up until the holidays!



A final Accelerated Reader report will be posted home shortly.

Year 8: Again, parents are thanked for reminding their sons to do their weekly Google Classroom homework quizzes in literacy and numeracy, preparing for next year's NAPLAN tests. These will continue until the final week this Term – then, a break for the holidays! A report about each boy's participation in the program will be posted home soon.

Year 10 students: Catch-up Minimum Standards tests have been taking place during the Term, and it is pleasing to report that the list is getting shorter, of those still to gain these Standards. The test window has now closed for the year.

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 still operates on Mondays and Tuesdays, after school for one hour in the library. Assistance, especially in literacy, is available at these times - and is free!

A reminder, if offered special support.....

In each of Years 7-9, especially, some students have been identified by the school as needing extra support with areas of literacy or numeracy. In most cases, parents will have been 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!

**Have a great
summer
holiday!!!**

If there are further enquiries.... Please ring Mr Bawden
(Literacy/numeracy Support Person) at the school (Tuesdays/Thursdays),
Ph: 9764 3611).



Ms Michelle Degney Library



It's been a big year for everyone and the library is no exception.



We in the library have tried to create an environment that fosters a love of reading, learning and books. It has provided a quiet study space for our senior students and a place for students to share their knowledge and teach others. A chess set donated by one of the students became a great source of fun and stress relief during a difficult year for our Year 12 students. Three mornings a week it is home to the peer tutoring reading program. The Big History Project for some of our brightest Year 10 students also found a place here.

During the lockdown we remained open to ensure that students who did not have a device for online learning were able to borrow laptops on a long term basis. There were a number of Year 12 students who came every day during this period for a quiet place to study. Some students also came in to borrow books.

We have seen record breaking book borrowing and the acquisition of many new books and senior resources. There have been two very successful great book giveaways with some students needing to use a box to take away their finds. Every week, with a book display, we try and introduce a different genre to broaden the students reading interests.

Before school, recess and lunch the library is the place to be. Somewhere quiet to read, study for assessment tasks, seek help for your maths tests, print your assessment tasks and play a game of cards. At the end of the year the library became the place to drop off donations for "It's in the bag", a charity that supports women and girls. Forty six handbags full of essential products for women were donated.

Mrs Edwards is often in the library with her Year 7 classes. She runs the Accelerated Reading program combined with a focus on literacy. The success of this program is reflected in the very much improved reading ages of many students.

Finally I would like to thank Ms Pearce (the library assistant) whose work keeps the library functioning. She orders and accessions books, creates bookmarks, is front and centre at the desk and so much more.

The library staff wish one and all a happy and safe holiday.





It's in the Bag!



Big History is an interdisciplinary course that is meant to challenge and encourage our young men to think critically about our past, present and future. This course is written and supported by Macquarie University and on successful completion the students are awarded three bonus points towards entrance to some Macquarie University courses post school. The following work is an essay by William Knight, it was his final assessment task. It exhibits best the quality of work our young men are capable of.

Big history has effectively enhanced my understanding of connections across subjects, understanding the complexity of the world and the challenges of the future. This course has provided a comprehensive, yet concise summary of the creation of the earth, the universe, human history, and the complexity as well as uncertainty of the future.

Big history highlighted the importance of collecting information from a variety of subjects and topics. It demonstrated the relations between them and how they can be utilised to create a more comprehensive understanding about specific topics and allows one to make more accurate predictions about our future. Collecting information across subjects is one of the only ways that one can gain a holistic and comprehensive understanding about an issue, topic, or event. Simply using one field or subject to assess something cannot provide one with a sufficient understanding. Claim testers were an interesting and effective method to create connection across disciplines and allowed for accurate and comprehensive assessment of claims and ideas. The claim testers, intuition, authority, logic, and evidence when used together is an effective method of analysing the credibility of the source. The Big History course did not only allow me to reflect on the connections between topics but assisted in promoting critical thinking about claims, sources, and their credibility.

The big history course effectively reviewed and summarised the complexity of our world, the issues we face in the future and how history can be utilised to better humanity in the future. From the big bang, creation of life and the establishment of ancient civilizations, which all played an integral role in the success of humanity. The Big History course successfully explained the complexity of our world and its origins, without overcomplicating topics or providing excessive information. Important details and features as well as more complex ideas. Information was strategically chosen to ensure that the course could be understood by a wide range of people, even those who do not have pre-existing knowledge in certain fields. This course also highlighted how the events of the past, though do not offer a guarantee about what will happen in the future, can be utilised to predict what may happen in the future. Theories like Thucydides trap describes the disruption of peace when a rising power meets a ruling one and the likelihood of war in these conditions. This theory has been investigated in 16 cases, 12 of these cases resulted in war. This theory can be utilised to prevent wars and investigate conditions where peace prevails over war. The Big History course investigated the complexity of our world/history and how this can be utilised to increase our understanding of the future. Other issue like climate change poses an existential threat to humanity. With unprecedented globalization and the ability to communicate across the world in a matter of seconds. Humanity can collectively work towards making global change and innovations to prevent the devastating effects climate change. We can appreciate this challenge as, if global cooperation is achieved, it will be something, never seen before in our history. Humanity is facing one of its greatest challenges in its evolutionary path, we must radically change how we live, how we supply our civilizations and our industries. This course concisely, but with sufficient detail highlights the complexity of our past and promotes one to consider the challenges we face in the future.

The big history course has enhanced my understanding of the complexity of our past, the challenges of our future, how to assess the credibility of claims and the importance of establishing connections across disciplines. This course has provided a concise yet comprehensive summary of a variety of events, theories, and subjects.

William Knight

Mr Thomas Lee

Year 7 Adviser

2020 will be a year that our Year 7 group will never forget. The first taste of High school and all thoughts of apprehension and excitement of the new challenges ahead will always be remembered. It certainly did not make things easier having to face a pandemic whilst trying to find their feet in a new environment.



However, it has been uplifting to see the growth in the boys from the small and timid students who arrived on day one, wide eyed and weak kneed to then becoming the strong and capable young men who have just completed their first year as Bushy Boys.

There have been wonderful times with the Year 7 camp as a highlight for all of the boys in their first few weeks at the school, as well as completing their Peer Support and Study Skills program. The best attribute of this Year 7 cohort is their energetic nature, both in and out of the classroom. These students have represented the school in grade sport, debating and involved themselves in extracurricular activities around the school by joining groups such as the SRC, Environment Club and Interact Club.

A massive thank you to Ms Khan and Ms Player for all of their valuable support throughout 2020.

It has been a privilege to watch this fantastic group of boys grow a year older and wiser (we can only hope). Every single one of the boys makes the school a better place in some way and they are a credit to both the school and their parents. I look forward to seeing each and every one of them again next year after a safe and relaxing summer break.



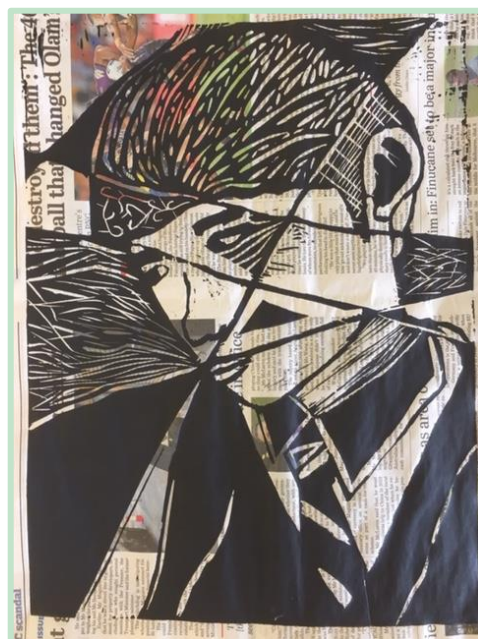
Mr Lee

High School is a lot different than Primary. It is a hard transition to go from Year 6 to Year 7, to be the oldest in the school then back to the youngest. At first Year 7 was difficult as there were so many changes, like keeping up with your work and having to remember what subject and room you have next. For example, if you have maths you will be in a classroom in the math block but if you have English you will have to walk to the English rooms. Even with all these hard changes the students and teachers at Homebush Boys High School are very supportive and helpful. You get many opportunities such as school clubs and activities that we could participate in, like the Environment Club, Interact club and SRC. These clubs and activities really help students to enjoy their time at High School as you can get involved in the school, help make changes and develop important skills such as leadership. It is amazing in High School how you are treated like an adult and have a lot more responsibilities. For example, we have a device policy, in which the teacher's trust us for doing the right thing in class, in certain subjects the teachers trust us to use specific tools appropriately and for the right purposes. At lunch you can also go on the playground, read in the library, go on your laptop and the options are endless! You get so many new subjects where you learn in depth unlike primary school,



for example Music, Visual arts, cooking and Wood Work! Overall, we really enjoyed Year 7 at Homebush Boys High school and can't wait for the coming years.

By: Yusef Adra, Youssef Tabikh and Ridhwan Sikder



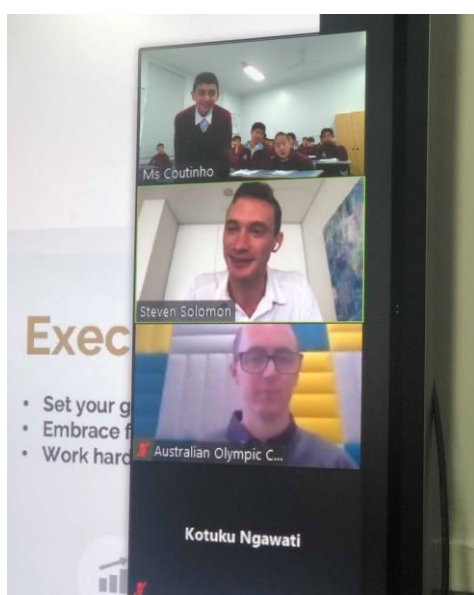
Homebush Boys Artwork

Ms Coutinho Year 8 Adviser

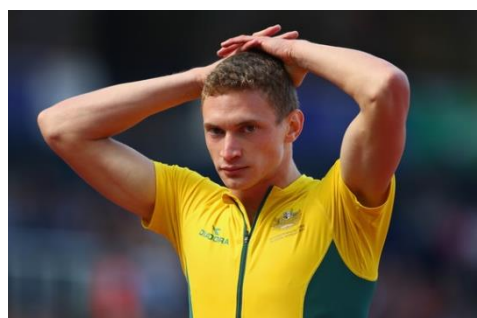


What a rollercoaster of a year it has been for all students worldwide. From lockdowns to online learning, it has been a year to remember to say the least. I know this year has been far from normal and probably not the year that students ever imagined. Despite all of this, the Year 8 students have continued to excel in so many areas of their school life. They have worked hard to achieve amazing results in their subjects, and participated in many extracurricular activities throughout the year. The below is a snapshot of some of the exciting opportunities the Year 8's have participated in this year.

Olympics Unleashed with Steven Solomon



Year 8 students had the opportunity to meet Olympic sprinter Steven Solomon as part of the Olympics Unleashed program. Steven was scheduled to compete in this year's Olympics in Tokyo. He was originally scheduled to come and meet the boys in person, but due to restrictions this was not possible. Instead, 30 students of Year 8 were lucky enough to speak with Steven over Zoom where he shared some life lessons on the importance of passion and goal setting. The boys walked away with a key message - *"When we succeed we celebrate but when we fail we learn"*.



Grade Sport – 14's Tennis



"Since starting school at Homebush Boys, I have been playing in the Grade 14's Tennis team for two years. During my time versing opponents from other schools, my tennis skills have improved drastically and I would consider it a good opportunity for anyone looking to learn a new sport, make friends and have fun." - Arnav Trivedi - Year 8

Blackdog Institute – Future Proofing Study

The Future Proofing Study aims to prevent depression and anxiety in young people. Homebush Boys High School had the opportunity to participate in this initiative with 20,000 other Year 8 students Australia wide. The program will track their wellbeing over a 5 year period. Majd Khabutli from Year 8 is participating in the program and said the below:

"It's important to keep track of students' wellbeing due to many students going through stressful moments. During the study I learnt that 50% of mental health problems emerge during adolescents and

I want to be part of the solution and help any teenagers at risk. I really appreciate having this opportunity for myself and other year 8 students to try and make a change." - Majd Khabutli - Year 8



Environment Club

There is a group of 15 students from Year 8 students who are active participants in the Environment Club. They are passionate and dedicate their time trying to make a difference in environmental issues. Rishik Vinnakota and Michael Ong-Schofield from Year 8 said the below about their experience.



"The Environment Club is a group of relentless, persistent, hardworking warriors who come to school every day with the same motto: one person doing anything can make a change. Ms Coutinho, the wonderful head of the club, is a selfless and open-minded teacher who works towards the wellbeing of every student and staff. The club's Friday meetings are informative and act as a

stage for new innovative ideas. The club works together on making our school more environmentally friendly and responsible for how we treat our Earth.

The Environment Club plays a major role in maintaining the environment to enhance the experience of students and staff. This club is an essential role to help reduce the pollution in our school and raise awareness about environmental issues. The club has a flexible manner with which students can involve and make suggestions. Our actions adapt to change and appeal to current problems. For example: The recent rise in plastic bottles and cans was dealt with by the implementation of the Return and Earn scheme which benefits the school as the 10¢ return has added up to more than \$500 raised. The club also gives like-minded students a chance to work together and grow our ideas into actions. The club members' dedication and the right coordination of the Environment Club has hit many milestones this year.



The club has put in maximum effort in order to make a huge change and be active throughout the school year. Some achievements include: Our rubbish audits which saw us segregate over 14 kilograms of rubbish into various categories, learning programs from Reverse Garbage that helped us identify our rubbish issues, the installment of Return and Earn bins in most of the staff rooms and classrooms. Throughout the year we have worked together in peer groups to collaborate, communicate and be proactive about the environment of our world and also have dedicated our Friday lunch to picking up rubbish.

In conclusion, Environment club is the heart of our school's sustainability activities and it helps achieve meaningful change within school communities. I think we inspire, motivate and give students opportunities to build leadership skills and it's a great opportunity that is at our school, Homebush Boys High School." - Rishik Vinnakota - Year 8

Environment Club – Rubbish Audit

The Environment Club conducted a rubbish audit where we cleaned around the school. These areas



included the Western grass and Southern grass. The amount of rubbish that we collected over the 1 and a half hours was concerning. We weighed the rubbish and found these results: Plastic – 2.1kgs, Paper/Cardboard – 2.2kgs, Return and Earn (bottles, cans, poppers) – 2.53kgs, Foil – 0.27kgs, other (including food scraps, glass) – 6.1kgs.

The audit helped us establish some areas of concern regarding rubbish and the main items which students are disposing of. The results were concerning and as a team we are now working on strategies to try and minimise the rubbish at Homebush Boys High School. In 2021, we are going to work on ways to minimise plastic usage, and ensure that all students are recycling items in the correct bins. We have already placed a specific bin in front of the canteen for our Return and Earn scheme, so that we can recycle them and collect 10c per item. In most classrooms we have also introduced a recycling bin for students to put cans, bottles and cartons inside so they don't have to walk to the bin outside in front of the canteen - Michael Ong-Schofield - Year 8.



Ms Singh Year 9 Adviser



Year 9 Report - Year 9 Adviser - Ms Singh

This year 2020, came with unprecedented challenges for all the students around the world. The schools went into a month's long lockdown, social distancing became the new normal and the teaching and learning became online. Everything was so different from the normal and its scale and enormity was perhaps never even imagined by great novelists. Despite all of this, the Year 9 students continued to complete their course contents in all KLAs, achieve excellence in many extracurricular activities and develop leadership skills. Enjoy the snapshot of some exciting moments Year 9 experienced this year:

Strathfield Council Food Drive



**Blue and Maroon
Awards – Home
Room 29**

"This year was hard as everything went online so suddenly. And just when I was getting used to online learning, we went back to school. Ah, having the constant support of my family and the teachers really helped me to get through it."

M.I. Year 9 Student

Thanking the firefighters



"Our activities as human beings have a lot of impact on our environment. These massive bush fires and then floods in the beginning of this year are a stronger reminder for all of us to do the right thing by the Mother Nature. A simple act of throwing the rubbish in the bin is a tiny step in right direction."

Aryan Rodrigues – Year 9

"Everything around us is connected - Earth, oceans, skies etc. We may be different from outside but we are all connected too. We are one." **Mr. Brendan O'Connor Captain Balmoral Village RFS**

Ms Sharon Cuneen Year 10 Adviser



After a very different Year in 2020, the Year 10 cohort should be congratulated on their efforts in Semester 2. Their attendance rates have been very good and they have been busy completing all of their assessments towards achieving their ROSA Award. With assessments complete, many Year 10 boys have been involved in a variety of activities, all of which indicate that the boys are thinking about their futures.

We have had two projects going in partnership with Macquarie University. The first was a group of Year 10 boys working on The Big History Course in the Library two periods per week and the second was a presentation to talented students who may want to get involved in a Gifted and Talented program run by the University. This would involve them doing a critical thinking unit of work online during Year 11 and could lead to early entry at Macquarie University.

During Term Four, there have been many Year 10 boys getting a taste of TAFE in a variety of courses including Café, Carpentry and Bricklaying. Other students have taken the opportunity to get some work experience in Construction, Bricklaying, Plumbing and Window Cladding, and all reports from employers have been very positive.



Emre, Amjed and Aiden were excellent in their Bricklaying activities.

Volunteering

Despite the issues that arose as a result of COVID-19, there have been a great number of volunteering opportunities and ways to better the school community. Ms Edward's after-hours speed reading is a program which I have volunteered in. Ms Edward's efforts and dedication to this program is commendable. After school, every Monday and Tuesday I have helped students improve their grammar, reading speed and understanding of literacy. This program has seen great results, with students evidently and dramatically improving their reading. This program has benefited the school community greatly and has been rewarding to volunteer in as improvement is massive and evident. Though there were many complications with the Peer Support program as a result of COVID-19, the volunteering was enjoyable and fulfilling. The experiences and memories volunteering at the Year 7 camp earlier in the year will be something I will always remember from my years in High School. Additionally, the TAFE peer tutoring program has allowed me to assist the school community and improve the literacy skills of peers. A TAFE representative also came to the school to improve our teaching skills and discuss how we could improve communication. The strong volunteering presence of the school has existed through the challenges presented by COVID-19.

William Knight

During this year, there have been many opportunities for students to take part in charity work and volunteering. These opportunities include Drum Corps, speed reading, peer tutoring, peer support and the coffee club. Although the year has been disrupted heavily by Covid-19 and many volunteering opportunities have been unable to run, it has also created a need for more charity and work in the community. During this time, Drum Corps has excelled and has had many more opportunities to perform, especially with the recent presentation days. Also, with no assemblies for a large part of the year, the TAFE peer tutoring has also had much more time to work with their partners.

Tobias Knight

Finally, on behalf of Ms Carrasco (Assistant Year Adviser) and myself, we would like to wish everybody in the Homebush Boys High School community a happy and safe break. To Year 10 students, enjoy time with family and friends, be safe and come back in 2021 refreshed and ready to work hard in Year 11.

Ms S Cuneen



Ms Sathya Kumaralingam Year 11 Adviser



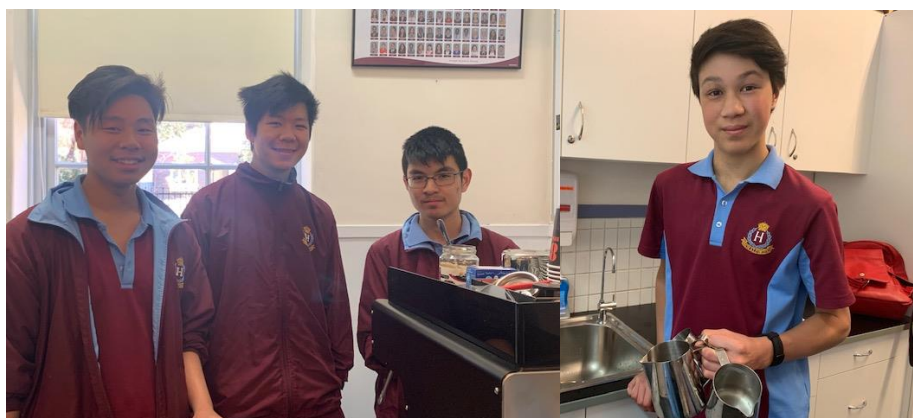
A SNAPSHOT OF YEAR 11-2020

The first senior year (Year 11) of this cohort began with no dramas but when the rest of the world went into lockdown our Year 11 students were affected. Yes, it has been a roller coaster ride with no excursions except for the two presenters who were invited to the Year Assemblies. They had no sports and the worst part was that no regular classroom learning happened for a while. However, we have all survived and the boys have been doing their best academically. I am very pleased to say that this cohort has received numerous Blue and Maroon awards throughout the year. These awards are given to promote a student's application of effort across all subjects. Thanks to the Blue and Maroon Award Team and the fantastic effort from our Year 11's, this term our students received a hundred Blue and Maroon awards.

Even though they haven't been able to do sport or go on excursions they have been busy with various things around the year. To name a few, the Coffee club thanks to Mr Stinson and his team. They were also part of the Interact club and the Construction group thanks to Ms Anton.

This term these students ran for Whole school leadership positions such as the SRC, Prefect positions, Captain, Vice-Captain, Senior Prefect, and Sports Captain positions. The whole grade and all staff voted and are happy with their choices. The prefects have already begun their projects. Recently they ran a donut fund raiser to help the grade with future events. The Year 11's who are part of the Interact club ran a pizza fund raiser and have been very busy with many other activities to help the community at large.

To conclude, the Year 11's have been a resilient group overcoming their challenges thrown by Covid - 19 and other academic challenges thrown by senior school. It's an absolute pleasure watching these young men grow together whilst upholding the spirit of HBHS. I feel blessed and proud to be part of this cohort and I wish these students the very best for 2021 and their HSC.





A Year 11 student's perspective

Year 11 plunged into their senior year with apprehension, but most of all excitement. Finally, all our subjects were of our own choosing, free periods became a beloved commodity, and not to mention the *absolute delight* of morning classes. And, just as our first round of senior school assessments were coming into frame, the world changed. Suddenly, we all found ourselves at home indefinitely. Routines and sleep schedules went out the window, Google Classroom ruled our lives, and both teachers and students struggled to traverse this new world of learning.

We returned to school in real life a few weeks into Term 2 to find, surprisingly, that we had missed it. And so we readjusted to the order and the timetables, and plodded our way through a term which seemed to have simply flowed through from the first, with no discernible break. The 21 week term, as referred to by the ever witty Mr Doolan. But, we made it. No further lockdowns were required. Opportunities began slowly opening back up to us. Life had begun to settle.

And with the end of Term 2 came Term 3, which brought with it the terror that was prelims. This 2 week stretch of exams brought with it much stress, much camping out in Strathfield Library, cramming quotes and facts until our brains could hold no more. But, our first experience of proper, formal testing proved a success, and many students saw great results.

And so, after a two week catharsis, we entered year 12. Our final year. The big stretch. With our subjects more or less set in stone, we started the long hard slog towards the HSC. At time of writing, we are in the first bout of assessments, notable for being the first ones that count to our HSC. The expected pressure and anxieties are setting in, not to mention the loss of sleep. But something more than that is happening. The boys are really starting to get into gear. We're working harder than we ever have or ever have had to before. People are staying at Strathfield Library until closing. Free periods are more and more being used for homework, rather than Youtube. Work is getting done.

And so we sign off for the year. We say goodbye to this halted, stressful, disjointed introduction we have had to senior schooling, and look towards 2021 with an eager eye.

James Wark
Vice-Captain



Mr Cheiban Elaro

Head Teacher English



English Faculty Report, 2020

What a year!!

Where does one start when experiencing so many tumultuous events, many of which we have never experienced before 2020?

The faculty didn't just respond to all the challenges, we met them head on and became better, both as individuals and as a faculty. All the while, our focus was ensuring all students were given opportunities to get better.

The English Faculty welcomed Ms Lisa Brien who was successful via merit selection at the end of 2019. Ms Brien immediately settled into the faculty, and the school, and has had a huge impact on us all. As well, we are delighted to have Ms Catherine Lea and Ms Misbah Khan, along with Ms Judith Edwards, teaching the literacy courses in Years 7, 8 and 9 this year. They have worked tirelessly all year on developing outstanding resources and programs for half the students in the school. We were also very fortunate to have Mr Stephen Casey with us 9 days per fortnight. He was job sharing with Ms Joanna Carrasco and Ms Duska Mirkova, who worked part-time this year.

The school's proud tradition in debating has continued with the usual number of strong debating teams entered in the various competitions. Even though COVID halted the competitions at the end of term 1, the competitions concluded, thanks to Zoom, in early term 4. We had 5 teams represent the school and congratulations to Ms Sofy's Year 9 team who progressed beyond the zone competition. Thanks to Ms Sofy (Years 9 and 10 coach) for her continued hard work and commitment to debating. Yours truly had the honour of coaching the Years 7 and 8 teams. We have exciting plans for 2021 which involve weekly coaching sessions provided by external providers so that we can offer the students the best possible opportunities to develop their skills.

A big thank you to Ms Gyan Sahay for mentoring the public speaking candidates in the school and coordinating their entries in the various competitions. Again, COVID interrupted the competitions. They resumed thanks to technology and Zoom.

I would like to thank all members of the English Faculty for being truly extraordinary in the face of many adversities and challenges this year. We had to modify our programs at the end of term 1 and make some radical decisions regarding assessments, reporting, units of work, etc. I am eternally grateful to Ms Effie Bonis, Ms Lisa Brien, Ms Joanna Carrasco, Mr Stephen Casey, Ms Judith Edwards, Ms Angelene Karas, Ms Misbah Khan, Ms Catherine Lea, Mr Thomas Lee, Ms Duska Mirkova, Ms Gyan Sahay and Ms Emily Yong. I thank them all for their professionalism, all their enormous hard work and their dedication to the school and their students. They continued their demands for the highest of standards from every student whilst adapting to new ways of teaching and using various methods to engage students. I have always felt very privileged to lead such a professional, enthusiastic and hard-working group of teachers. And this is more so in 2020.

Cheiban Elaro,

Ms Christina Papavramidis
Head Teacher Social Science (Rel.)
Prefect Coordinator



Australian Business Week 2020

During week 6/7 around 50 Homebush Boys students had the pleasure of travelling to Strathfield Girls for the annual Australian Business week. This is a tradition that has run between the schools for many years which provides students the opportunity to engage in collaborative discovery learning by running a hospitality simulation and making key business decisions for a hotel they manage. During the process the students create a company report, oral presentation, video commercial, physical trade displays.

The event ran successfully and our students represented the school with the utmost respect and dignity. Each student was grateful to attend as Homebush Boys High School strives to give students the most unique learning opportunities there are. Below are a few recounts of three students who attended Australian Business Week and their experience.

Mr Elie Kisso





Written by William Knight

ABW offered a unique and valuable experience to students who chose to participate. This program stood out to me mostly because it allowed students to engage in independent and practical learning. Students were trusted to complete tasks and had freedom over how they worked. Additionally, the simulation promoted critical thinking and allowed for practical learning. There were no set answers for success, presenting a difficult yet insightful challenge. Students learnt to analyse data, the positive or negative consequences of their business decisions and developed a better understanding of the inner working of businesses. ABW allowed students to develop their social and teamwork skills. Successful teams were built on trust, effective time management, fairness, and cooperation.

The course was designed in such a way only groups who implemented teamwork skills would succeed and highlighted the importance of cooperation as well as actively including everyone in work and discussions. I personally found the teamwork element of ABW enriching and important for developing better social and teamwork skills.

Another great part of ABW was the lectures from guest speakers. Professionals from a variety of industries with insightful and interesting stories, spoke about their industry, life and gave valuable advice to students. This enabled students to have a deeper understanding of life outside of school and how to better themselves for the future. ABW was a phenomenal experience, I have no regrets attending and feel as though I have been bettered through my experiences during the week. I genuinely believe that every student who attended ABW improved themselves and benefited from this program.



Written by Anargyros Kallos

In weeks 6 and 7, a number of boys in year 10 were welcomed by Strathfield Girls High School for Australian Business Week (ABW), a memorable 6 days for all who participated.

In brief, this program sorted the boys and girls into groups which would function for six days as 23 different hotel companies, either prestige or budget, competing against each other to achieve the highest share price through a simulation. This required us to make financial decisions regarding the attainment of said objective. In addition to this, each company had to create a video commercial to advertise their brand. Physical trade displays were created, reflecting the creative side of many students. As well as these things, the “companies” wrote business reports outlining their performance over the past seven quarters, and presented oral presentations designed to persuade shareholders to invest in their companies. Excluding this, speakers were invited to provide information about finance and marketing, in addition to providing motivational career and life advice. Not to mention the enjoyable corporate games, and activities organised by the teachers. Students learnt many things throughout the duration of the week, but also appreciated the social experience realised by the interaction of both schools.

Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed the week, ranging from meeting new people, creating the entertaining video commercial, to my group being awarded three awards (not to brag). Once again, this was a great opportunity for all the boys and girls to collaborate and learn, and a big thank you to all who participated.



Written by Shakthikram Kulandaivel

Australian Business Week was a week when a group of 50 boys went to our sister school Strathfield Girls High School to have an experience of running a hotel simulation in which 23 teams had competed to take the top spot. The week ran for 6 school days in which teams had a lot of learning curves in which everyone had learnt from. With decisions to be made and the time on their tail, teams had to complete a 30 sec video commercial, a company report containing results of all 8 Quarters (2 years in the business world) and a trade display that portrayed how their hotel looked like in the place they would set it in.

The first day of ABW was one of information and team-bonding. We had the opportunity of meeting our teammates and getting to know each other's strengths and weaknesses and had participated in three different team building activities. The first was a brain teaser in which all the members of the group had to come up with ideas of different riddles. This had been marked by one of the supervising teachers and had been given a score out of 20. After the teasers, we were given 25 minutes to build a bridge out of paddle-pop sticks to hold the highest amount of weight. The requirements were to make it 5cm high and 30cm long. Many groups had tried their best to create a bridge.

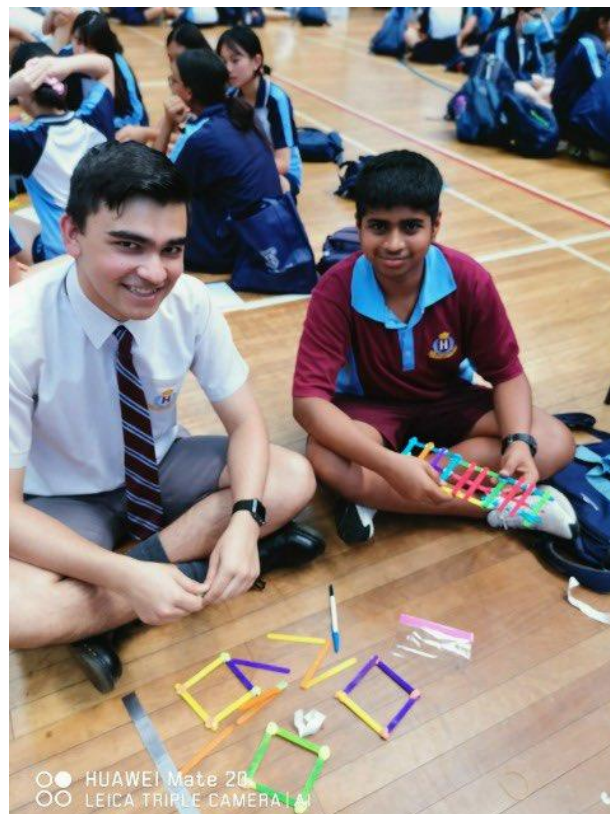
The second day had started off with a bright morning and roll call had been taken in the hockey field. All the boys were waiting anxiously for getting back to their groups after the weekend breaks, urging to share their ideas for the hotel they had proposed to takeover. Mr. K., the organiser from Strathfield Girls High School, had asked us to come into the hall. All the groups were getting organised, but just then sudden news came in saying that our first financial decisions were taking place and were due by the end of 11:00 am. We looked at the digital clock in front of us and realized that was in 15 minutes. That first experience of realising that the first quarter decisions were finished and that there were only

7 quarters left to finish off. Then the news that the CEO's had a lecture, so the second quarters decision had laid under the Deputy CEO to take control and take in charge.

Day 3 of Australian Business Week had started off with a guest speaker, Mr. Anthony Saba, who is working at ADAPT and holds the position of Senior Director, Research & Advisory Practice. He had taught us about the different types of marketing tactics and styles a company uses. All marketing teams had taken the tips on board and had used that to create business cards, brochures, and pamphlets. Day 3 was mainly used for creating the company report, creating, and editing the video commercial which had lasted for 30 Seconds. The teams all had pressure on their backs as the two tasks were due by Thursday 2:30pm. Despite the pressure given by the report and the commercial, teams also had to create a trade display.

Day 4 of Australian Business Week has and had started off with all CEO's going to a lecture presented by Jane Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of the Property Council of Australia. She had taught the CEO on how to behave in the workforce and how to lead without getting frustrated and to lead with a calm mindset. She had told all 23 CEO's to lead with a positive mindset and to not be afraid to take risks. She had also said to value all team members' opinion and then take a collaborative decision as a team. If anyone in the team is not willing to participate, take them aside, find out the problem, resolve it and think of ways it should not happen again.

Overall, I believe that ABW is a very good experience and I would like to thank the following teachers for organizing and supervising the event, Mr Kisso, Mr Innasi, Mrs Papas, Ms Coutinho, Mr Rao, Ms Napoli and all the other teachers.





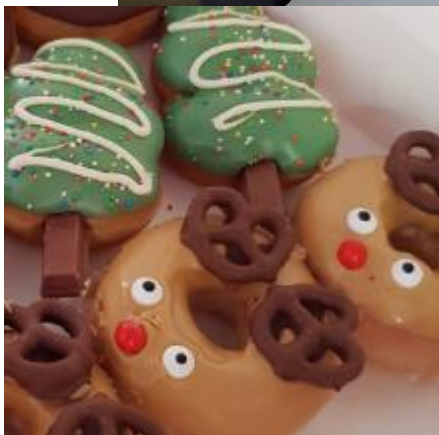
DONUT DAY



When people think of donut day, they imagine a frantic team under the arches shouting over each other. On Monday the 30th of November, the prefects defied this perception, working collaboratively and displaying collective teamwork and communication skills. With the help of Ms Papas, the prefects managed to efficiently sell a large number of Krispy Kreme donuts – a bushy boy favourite.

Being one of our first fundraisers, I can safely say that the prefects obtained loads of experience regarding fundraising initiatives, in terms of logistics and future improvements in organisation. The prefects all worked together collectively and achieved a positive outcome at the end of the day. We look forward to many more fundraisers in 2021.

David Kadamani
School Vice-Captain
2020-21



November 2020



During the month of November, the Prefect team raised funds and educated the students at Homebush Boys High School on men's mental health. Movember is the leading global organisation committed for changing the face of men's health by raising awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and suicide. Being a boy's school it was a no brainer to embrace this great cause which is changing the face of men's health worldwide. Due to the stereotype associated with men having to be tough and not allowed to show emotions, it is crucial we as a community emphasise the importance of men seeking help in order to improve their mental health. The Prefect body and a few interested staff grew a "mo" to raise awareness, funds, and, most importantly, to start conversations about men's health and to help the student body understand it's OK to voice your concerns and seek help. I

would like to give a big hand to my fellow Prefects and the staff who all jumped onto this initiative. Especially to our fabulous Prefect Coordinator, Mrs Papas, who guided us throughout this campaign. To our respected Principal, Mr Elgood, who embraced this initiative by growing a "mo". To our loved History teacher and SRC coordinator, Mr Morales, who joined the movement and raised the most money as an individual. And to my fellow Prefect, Sisi Taufu, who designed all the intricate posters which detailed the Movember movement and how students can join the initiative to support it. As a school community we raised a massive \$1551.20, this is a testament of the generous community we have at Homebush Boys High School. This was a great whole school effort and I couldn't be more proud; we all deserve a pat on the back.

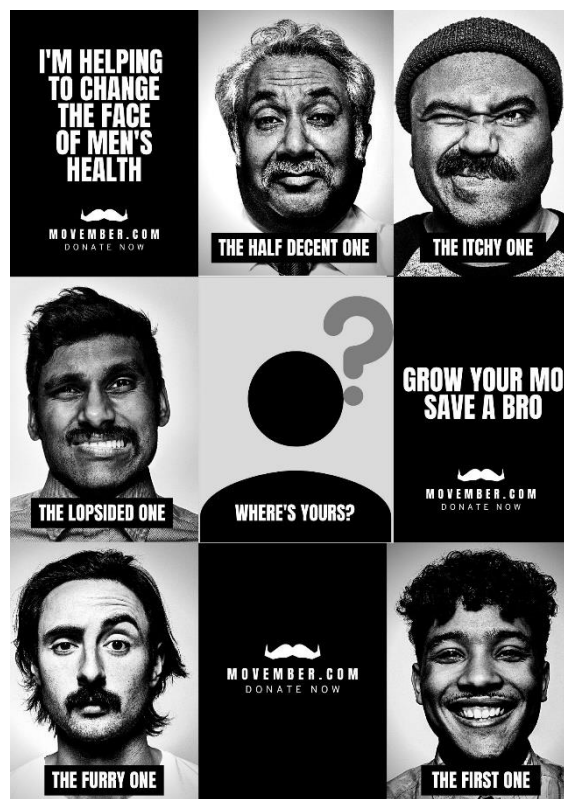
Siddhant Jethliya



The Participants



Siddhant at Assembly



Remembrance Day 2020



Today marks the 102nd time we gather together on November the 11th to commemorate the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts. From the Australian original ANZACs who left our shores for Gallipoli to those who fought in the jungles of Kokoda, struggled in the mud of Long Tan, risked their lives in the skies over Germany and in the waters of the Mediterranean and the Pacific, we are eternally grateful.

In the span of four years, the Great War claimed the lives of over 60 000 Australian soldiers. However, we do not gather here today to remember a number. We are here to **honour** the individual sacrifices made by each soldier through their willingness to leave their families and friends behind for the betterment of the country, knowing there was a slim chance of returning the way they left, or even returning at all.

What does this mean to the youth of today?

Remembrance Day **empowers** us to look beyond the figures and into the lives of the soldiers; whether they come from the suburbs or from the manors, old or young, rich or poor. We remember the shattered families, the widows and orphans who lost their loved ones in a cruel war, who served to protect the future of a land we know as Australia.

As youths of today, we have the privilege of being born into a society free from major world conflicts and often take for granted the sacrifice made by our soldiers, doctors, nurses, men women and children. At the age of 15, I was flipping burger patties at my local fast food chain, whilst James Martin, at the age of 14 years, was drafted into the Great War and passed away 9 months later from a bacterial-induced heart condition.

Founded in 1936, Homebush Boys High School has a plaque honouring its fallen students who served in World War Two. I remember on this particular day last year, pausing near this very plaque and imagining myself fighting in WWII. I just couldn't. It was at that moment where I realised the vitality of Remembrance Day, specifically to the youths of today – as a reminder that without those fallen heroes, we wouldn't have the privilege of roaming in a free country.

As John McCrae solemnly puts it, "We are the dead. Short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved and were loved, and now we lie in Flanders fields."

Lest we forget.

David Kadamani - Year 11



Sharks in Year 10 Commerce

Recently in Commerce, students completed a task named “Shark Tank”, which overall was a great team building activity which was beneficial to our learning. Students were tasked with working in teams to create an original and innovative idea then build on these ideas. Some of these ideas were conceived during our time spent at Strathfield Girls through the participation of Australian Business Week Program. Examples of the ideas created include community involvement programs and innovative products. These ideas will be thoroughly looked into by teachers who will judge these projects using the format used in the actual TV show, Shark Tank.

Throughout the year, Ms Coutinho, our Commerce teacher, has incorporated creative ideas in teaching our class about the various topics covered. Her understanding of students and their learning needs allowed her to create lessons that not only built our team working skills, but built our confidence in presenting in front of a collective audience. This benefited us greatly through utilising skills that can be used in the future. On behalf of Year 10 Commerce I would like to thank all the Social Science faculty

who gave us the opportunity to be involved in ABW and have worked tirelessly to create creative and engaging lessons for all students to enjoy.

Adrian Mossman



SOCIAL SCIENCES 2020

"We live in a social, cultural and physical environment that is ever changing and evolving, from historical times to the present. Social Sciences opens the eyes of young students to the world and its environs and equips them with the learning experiences, knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to participate more effectively and sensitively in our global community" NSW Institute of Teachers.

Social Sciences is the investigation of the political, economic, cultural and environmental issues that affect the daily lives of all individuals in society. In particular, the study of Geography enables students to establish their sense of place in the community and world, critically assess the ideas and opinions of others and to form and express their own ideas and arguments. It forms a basis for active participation in community life, ecological sustainability, creating a just society, promoting intercultural understanding and lifelong learning.

Within our large and diverse faculty, we aim to offer our students an insight and understanding of the contemporary issues of which they, as active citizens, must be informed and aware. These issues include the need to protect our changing global environment, the impact of globalisation and rapidly growing technology, and the role of government, the importance of a stable legal system and the rights and responsibilities of individuals within society.

Stage 4 & 5 Geography

Stages 4 & 5 Geography underwent many changes with new online programs being implemented this year with much success especially due to online learning. Stage 4 students studied topics such as 'Landscapes & Landforms', 'Place and Liveability', 'Interconnections' and 'Water in the World'. In Terms 1 & 3, Year 7's produced some outstanding models as part of their Place and Liveability project. They were also involved in fieldwork at HBHS where students learnt about how the landscape at HBHS is being used and how to manage it. The Stage 5 students worked through a variety of topics such as 'Sustainable Biomes', 'Changing Places', 'Environmental change & Management' and "Human Wellbeing".

Stage 5- Commerce

Commerce has become one of the most popular electives chosen by Year 8 students as a subject to study in Year 9 and 10. The reason for its popularity is that it offers students a range of interesting units of study as well as theoretical and real-life experiences such as 'Market Day' and 'Australian Business Week'. A highlight was the opportunity provided to Year 9 Commerce students to put their creative talents into use, to develop and run a small business on school grounds. The businesses that they created were a huge success and \$1137.00 was raised on the day and of this amount the boys donated \$341.00 to 'Make-A-Wish' Foundation.

Year 10 Commerce studied topics such as 'Employment Issues' and were given a practical insight into Australia's workplace through virtual tools, current statistics and studying issues apparent in the workforce today. The students gained an understanding on the way in which employment is regulated and were given the opportunity to study current issues such as discrimination, leave and awards. They also studied a topic called "Our Economy" where they learnt to assess changes in our economy, how these changes relate to existing trends in the economic cycle, and to explain the implications of these changes for consumers and businesses. They were then given the opportunity to participate in Australian Business Week which was hosted by Strathfield Girls High School. Participation has become a tradition that has run between the schools for many years which provides students the opportunity to engage in collaborative discovery learning by running a hospitality simulation and making key business decisions for a hotel that they hypothetically manage. During the process the students create a company report, oral presentation, video commercial, physical trade displays.

Stage 6- Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Studies of Religion & Geography

A special mention should go to the Year 12's of 2020, on behalf of the teachers of the senior subjects- Ms Coutinho, Ms Phirum Duch, Mr Innasi, Mr Kisso, Ms Papavramidis & Mr Rao.

The senior students were a pleasure to teach and their dedication to their studies is to be commended.

The Social Sciences Faculty runs extra-curricular activities as a form of educational enrichment across a broad range of subject areas and year groups. There were several opportunities for students to further develop their learning skills. Students from our school successfully entered into or were involved in the Australian Stock Exchange Sharemarket Game, Australian Economics Competition, Australian Business Studies Competition and the Australian Geography Competition.

The Social Sciences Faculty has achieved outstanding results in the academic field. The following Year 12 students deserve to be congratulated for their commitment and hard work in Social Sciences subjects in 2020:

Year 12 Economics HSC Course: - 1st Rishabh Somani, 2nd Viraj Danthurty and 3rd Eibad Mohammad Shariat.

Year 12 Business Studies HSC Course: - 1st Jason Qian, Equal 2nd Sai Shivam Bhonsle and Matthew Marsh.

Year 12 Geography HSC Course: - 1st Eric Nobile, 2nd Mingzhe Gu and 3rd Conghui Su.

Year 12 Legal Studies HSC Course: - Equal 1st Duy Quang Mai and Ratu Caleb Rinakama, Equal 3rd Sreenath Didugu and Mohammad Eibad Shariat.

Year 12 Studies of Religion HSC 2 Unit Course: - 1st Mohammad Kabir, 2nd Alvan Yuniadi and 3rd Hizryan Kodarusman.

Year 12 Business Services (VET): - 1st Joshua Mansfield, 2nd Amir Sari and 3rd Adeel Sajid.

This year has been a challenging year for the faculty with the introduction of online learning due to COVID19, the introduction of new Commerce programs and the implementation of new innovative resources. I would like to take the opportunity to specifically thank all the Social Sciences staff for their dedication and hard work. The successful implementation of new programs and resources would not have been possible and smooth sailing without your endless efforts. I also thank them for their continuous support and encouragement over the past year. Your hard work and commitment to the students is inspiring and has truly made my job so much easier. The hard work and efforts of all the Social Sciences staff has contributed to the great success of the faculty and the impressive results achieved by the students. Also, congratulations to all the students for their enthusiasm throughout the year. I would also like to thank all parents for the support you have given to our students, teachers and the wider school community.

Ms Christina Papavramidis
Social Sciences Head Teacher



Homebush Artwork



Mr Pablo Morales SRC Co-Ordinator



Tetris competition

On Monday 30 November and Thursday 3 December, the SRC held the inaugural Tetris Competition to raise funds for Movember. Students from each year group attempted to achieve the highest Tetris score in 10 minutes during lunch in Room 21. Through gold coin donations, the SRC was able to raise a total of \$98.50 to the Movember foundation, which focuses on finding ways to treat men's health issues. Congratulations to Patrick Nguyen from Year 10 who came third in the competition with a score of 42,758, Aydin Boduk from Year 7 who came second in the competition with a score of 43,286, and Joseph Wang from Year 11 who came first with a score of 86,935. The prize for 3rd place was a \$5 canteen voucher, 2nd place was a \$10 canteen voucher and 1st place was a \$50 Visa debit card. All participants should be commended for their efforts, and we hope you enjoyed yourselves. A big thank you to the SRC for organising this competition and supporting a very worthy cause. We hope to return next year for another Tetris competition!

Anargyros Kallos
SRC President



Ms Emily Yong
English Teacher
Refugee Support Coordinator



A note from Practicum Student working alongside Ms Yong this term.

Having been a student myself in high school only a few short years ago, and watching my teachers stand in the front of the room to teach, I never really thought about all the quirks, nuances and behind-the-scenes action that the profession involves. I have to say, teaching wasn't necessarily a career I thought I would be doing when I graduated high school, but having enjoyed school quite a bit myself, I think it's quite fitting that I find myself in a school once more. Of course, this time, I'm the one standing at the front.

So, embarking on my first placement here has been an interesting experience. I can still remember what it feels like to be sitting behind the desk with my textbook out. But now, I also get to see what it feels like to be standing in front of the room. I think it's safe to say that teachers do a lot—marking, managing behaviour, planning lessons, altering lessons, adapting, and developing rapport with students comes with the job. It seems, at times, teaching can become peripheral when you are trying to balance all these things. So, one of my biggest, yet most unique, challenges during this placement was balancing all of these responsibilities, which I think is not something you can perfect but something I think you can develop and master. I think most teachers would understand this: somehow they've managed to make the job look so effortless despite the unrelenting chaos. I personally think that you could pluck any other worker from any other profession and place them at any school and they would probably implode by term's end. This is a rewarding profession, and it has its perks. And when I think about this, I think about some of the key things I have taken away.

So, here are some of my takeaways after my four weeks here:
I never thought I would say it, but sport days are actually fantastic.
You get thirsty talking all day. Bring more water.
Playground duty can be interesting depending on what unfolds.
There are too many sets of twins at this school. It confuses me.
Go to breakfast club, there's free food and I didn't know about this until my last week.
Is the coffee club any good? May I get an honorary cappuccino for free?
Be nicer to your teachers.

And above all, you learn most about the students. They can frustrate you and test your patience. But they can also surprise you and give you a sense of pride through their achievements, and this is what I signed up for.

But the students will also make you laugh. They do and say funny things. They will learn and grow. They can surprise you in many ways. They'll do amazing things. You learn about all their different interests, dreams, ambitions and personalities. And for that, I guess, it isn't too bad. It's quite good, actually.

By Wesley Lai (Practicum Student, Masters of Teaching, University of Sydney)

Mr Iqbal Singh Head Teacher Science



Firstly, I would like to introduce members of my faculty, Dr P Balan, Ms M Catalano, Mr C Burke, Mrs R Kamil, Mr K Pathan, Mrs K Anand, Mrs J Lee, Mr D Johnston, Mr S Thanabalasingam and Ms H Gower (Lab Assistant).

As we all are aware, 2020 had been a truly testing year for all of us due to COVID. However, despite all these odds, we have been able to successfully deliver the much-needed support that our students deserve. I would like to start with thanking all the members of my faculty for their whole hearted support and effort in completing the curriculum for all their classes and particularly for the outgoing Year 12. They have been able to deliver their lessons on line with utmost efficiency and care, so the learning and teaching of the students was maintained throughout that difficult time.

Year 12, 2021 have already started their Year 12 courses and are on their way to complete their first assessment task successfully. Besides, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, this year again we have a Science Extension 1 class up and running. I would advise the Year 12 students to keep up with their regular study routine over the summer holidays to ensure they continue the momentum in their learning process that they started in term 4,

We have been able to get an Earth and Environmental Science class in addition to Physics, Chemistry and Biology for Year 11, 2021.

I would like to thank Mr C Burke for taking up the role of Relieving HT while I was away during Term 1 and Term 2, he did a fantastic job.

I would like to thank Mr Christopher Burke for his organisation in conducting the VALID Science Exam for Year 8 in October. We will be analysing the results and evaluate them to implement the findings and the outcomes of these tests into our teaching programs for Year 7-10.

Literacy has been a key focus in teaching and learning of the science curriculum. We in science have been using the ALARM strategy to enhance the answering skills of our students in science.

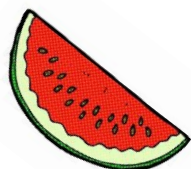
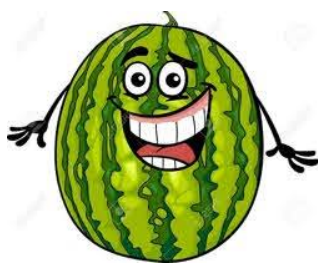
National Science Week- While complying with the COVID regulations, we participated in the National Science Week in August, in which our Year 7 students participated in the Watermelon Explosion Experiment using rubber bands. This was a state wide competition. This truly was a fun filled event and related to their learning of the concept of pressure.

I would like to thank Mrs Kusum Anand for her organisation and Ms Annette Di Val for her support in making this event a great success. We will make this as one of our annual events of National Science Week.

I would like to congratulate Mr S Thanabalasingam for taking up the role as Assistant Year 7 Advisor for 2021 and Mrs Rasha Kamil for taking up the role as Peer Support Organiser.

We missed several exciting Excursions, Field Trips, Titration Competition in Chemistry, and other Science Competitions due to the COVID restrictions. I am optimistic that this should all be back to normal in year 2021 and onwards and our students will be able to benefit from this.

Once again thank you to all the faculty members for their extremely valuable support in making this year a SUCCESS.

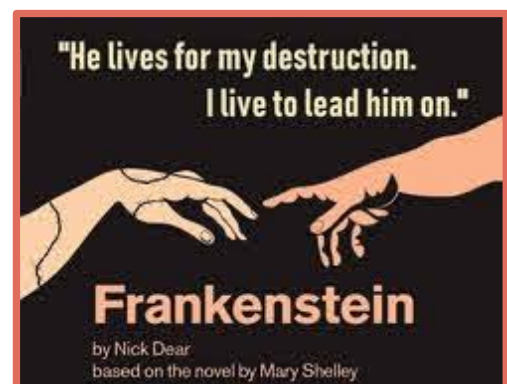
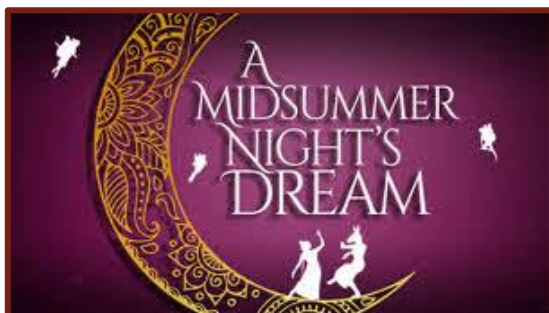


Ms Lisa Brien English Faculty



English Drama Study

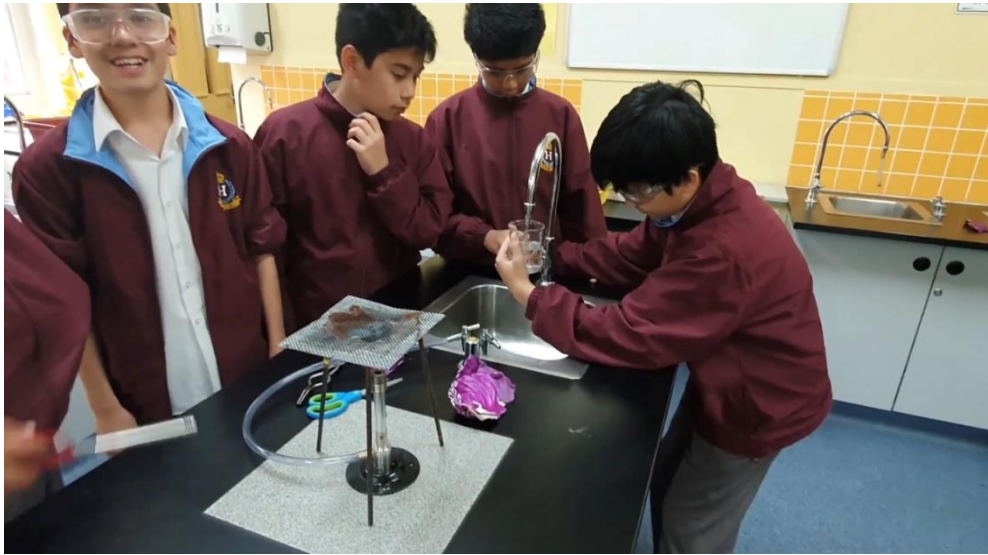
As part of the Year 7 Drama study students studied various plays including William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Frankenstein's Monster* by Nick Dear. As part of their study, Ms Bonis' class had a chance to work in groups to perform a scene from the play and had their final performance in the hall on Friday 13th November. The boys did a great job in rehearsals – well done!



A Day in the Life of a Bushy Boy Virtual Tour

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, local primary school students have been unable to attend Open Day visits as part of the school's transition program. 7A were invited to participate in a 'Day in the Life of a Bushy Boy' promotional video to be shown to our local schools in replacement and they were actively involved in all facets of planning, filming and editing.

A big thank you to all of 7A for capturing the spirit of Homebush Boys, as well as the executive and other teaching staff who were happy to be filmed, interviewed or have their lessons hijacked. The video can be found on the school's website.



Ms Melinda Wong

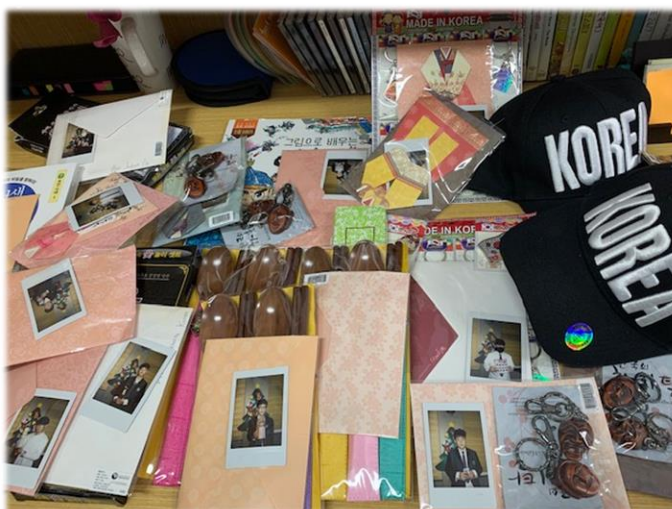
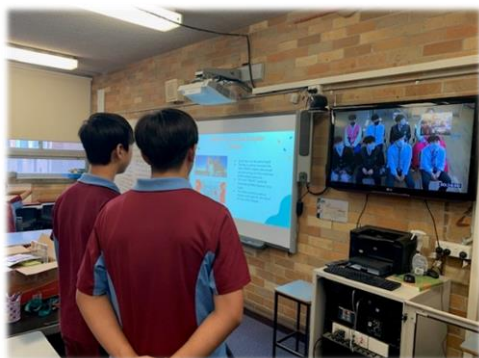
Deputy Principal Network

CAPA/LoTE

My Korean E Pal

Throughout 2020, our class of the Korean Non-background Speakers and Korean background Speakers of Year 9 were given the wonderful opportunity of having an e-pal from Korea. Similar to the commonly known pen pal, an e-pal is a person that you make friends with by sending emails, often somebody you have never met. All students in our class were paired up with students from Munseong Middle School. We kept in contact with our e-pals through letters which had information about ourselves and questions for the other person. This was accompanied with our VC (video conference) lessons which had different themes presented through various PowerPoint presentations. Themes included were: Traditional Holidays, Tourist attractions and School life. Students from our class introduced themselves in Korean while students from Munseong Middle School introduced themselves in English. During the last VC lesson with Munseong Middle School, we opened personalised gifts sent from our e-pals while they opened what we had sent them. The presents we received were amazing, but what stood out even more was the beautiful cards they had sent us alongside with a picture of our e-pal. This whole experience was pleasant as it allowed us to apply the Korean speaking skills we had learnt in class, in front of people who live in Korea.

Hayder and Musa





Mr Abderrahim Abbou
Rel. Head Teacher Technical and Applied Science



TAS Faculty Report 2020

The Technological and Applied Studies faculty has had a busy year with many challenges to overcome. It was extremely important for all TAS staff to ensure that learning was delivered in different specialisations and students were well engaged, even during the lockdown period.

Technology Mandatory engages students in design and production activities as they develop solutions to identified needs and opportunities. Through the practical application of knowledge and understanding what they learn about Agriculture and Food Technologies, Digital Technologies, Engineered Systems and Material Technologies.

Year 7 and 8 Technology students explored a variety of technologies throughout the different specialisations offered during the three rotations they were engaged in throughout the year. This provided students with experiences necessary to make valid subject choices for Years 9 and 10. Students developed practical skills using a variety of tools and materials while working safely, independently and collaboratively on design projects.



The students have learnt to design a Water Indicator, Skills Tester and Arduino - Thinker Shield in Electronics, designing and building a pencil case in Timber, exploring and developing skills in the Metal workshop. Furthermore, the students in year 7 & 8 were engaged in the 'Food and Agriculture' unit and the 'Fantastic Food unit'. In year 7 students grew fruit and vegetables in the HBHS garden situated outside room 66 and 67, they maintained the garden during their lessons and used the ingredients they grew to create appetising dishes. Students in year 8 worked through the design process to produce healthy and nutritious foods suitable for adolescents.



One hundred fifty-eight -158 students in **Year 9** and one hundred twenty-four -124 students in **Year 10**, had the opportunity to explore and refine their personal interest and future vocational choices through elective courses such as: Food Technology, Metal, Timber, Electronics and Information and Software Technologies.

The students are very motivated and enthusiastic in designing and submitting high quality work. They have had opportunities to design many projects in different fields, such as "Dasher flasher for cars" and the "Mini Electronic Organ" with great care and accuracy.

A great number of students have been selecting VET courses such as Hospitality and Construction, and it was a difficult year for the year 12 students as they were unable to complete the mandatory work placement component due to the pandemic restrictions. Another change to the routine was the year

12 Industrial Technology -Timber Products and Furniture Technologies. To ensure all students receive an equitable mark, NESA moved the marking of the Industrial Technology: Major Project (Product) from an external mark provided by HSC markers to a mark provided by the teacher.

In the previous years, Food Technology and Hospitality students had numerous opportunities throughout the year to contribute to the school community by catering for various functions. However, due to COVID19 restrictions, this year we have only catered for the visit of the district office Director Maria Serafim to our school.

Our catering events have been the focus of showcasing the school and the skills reached by our students. We take a lot of pride in our catering and each year evaluate our success and respond to feedback with the focus on making each year an even greater success. Students benefit from invaluable experience by helping with preparation in the weeks leading up to a function, cooking and preparation and by serving food on the day.

We must congratulate our year 11 Hospitality students who completed their mandatory work placement hours in term 4. Many of the employers gave positive feedback to our students on the great effort they applied. Students developed industry skills and several of students were offered part time employment. Some of the establishment's students worked in were, Rashay's, Al Aseel Restaurant, Mancinis, Bankstown Sports Club and Café 41.



Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all TAS teachers, Career Advisor and Kitchen-aide for their tremendous support and hard work with the students. The Pandemic has made us adapt ourselves to new methods of teaching our students. The unpredictability of the pandemic and the restrictions on social interaction during this year has pushed the teachers to move from a space in which they have years of experience to the unknown and challenging world of online, remote, correspondence and socially distanced teaching.

Abderrahim Abbou
Rel. Head Teacher TAS



Important Dates:

27/1/2021 and 28/1/2021: Staff Development days (No students)

Friday 29/1/2021: Years 7, 11 and 12 return to school.

Monday 1/2/2021: Years 8, 9 and 10 return to school.

Tuesday 2/2/2021: All students as per normal.

*On Behalf of Mr Elgood and the Staff of Homebush
Boys High School, we wish you a Happy New Year
and a safe and happy holiday.
See you all in 2021.*

