



HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

M O O C O O B O O L A

2020

MOCCOOBOOLA

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**Hunters Hill**  
High School

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

There have been a few unusual years in Hunters Hill High School history but this one would have to be up there with the most unusual. 2020 was a year that started normally enough but soon became one that tested the resolve of our community. The good thing is, we came out stronger with many of our students developing their determination and confidence and our young staff developing their technology and delivery skills. It showed too, the positive relationship we have with our community, which was reflected in the fantastic levels of cooperation we received. At this time too, I need to acknowledge the great work that Ms Chiew-Meldrum who took the reins when I had an unexpected trip to hospital. Her calm diligence ensured the school continued to function as well as it could under the circumstances. I am sure we all wish her well on her sabbatical year next year.

Fortunately for us, we had some solid electronic delivery platforms that we were already using before remote learning, which made the transition to remote an easier task for us than many schools around the state. As a result, we were able to maintain progress through the courses, particularly for Year 12.

Despite the disruptive year, we have managed to stay on track with the school's long term goals. This year, we embraced the use of the 4Cs approach to learning. This approach looks at utilising creativity, collaboration, connectivity and critical thinking to keep pedagogy at a higher-order level. We were making good progress when we were hit with a hiatus due to ongoing restrictions. However, early indications are very positive. The first group of staff have almost completed their training and the second group is well under way. It will be an important step for us as we try to take advantage of the growth we have made in writing over the last two years. Whilst students are writing with better structure and more consistently, we are now aiming at getting higher-quality arguments as well.



Despite the unusual nature of the year, we were able to have some notable achievements. Well done to the Year 12 students who achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards: they are the first in living memory! Sailing also returned to Hunters Hill High School. The school now has four training yachts and it has proved a popular sport option, as has the resilience building programme, Ready, Set, Sail, which we have developed within the school. My thanks to Mr Neild and Mr Law for leading the way. The TAS and PE departments have had amazing makeovers with the rebuilt girl-friendly gym and the NASA-like maker space taking us into state-of-the-art territory.

Well done to the P&C under new President Jacqueline Crompton who have supported the school in such a positive way. Thanks to the P&C too for their efforts in keeping the ensemble program going under adverse circumstances this year. I must give a special mention to Emma Paxton, P&C stalwart, who has taken it upon herself to write some community funding submissions so that we have shade sails near the oval and more student seating near the Lane Cove River.

A couple of staff movements have occurred that I need to recognise too. I thank Ms Simpson for all the things she has done for the school in her time here as she heads off to motherhood fulltime. Mrs Michelle Donovan commenced her role as Deputy Principal this year, joining us from Jamison High School. Whilst Mrs Donovan has already made her presence felt in a variety of ways, her appointment reflects our growing numbers, which have now qualified us for a second Deputy Principal for the first time in some years. These growing numbers have also allowed us to appoint an additional Head Teacher. To this end, the very popular Mr Kenji Luk has been appointed as Head Teacher Administration, effective from the start of the new year.

It was a full year, and another year in which we took steps forward together with our community. I have only provided a snapshot here of what transpired during 2020. I urge you to explore the rest of the Moocooboola to see all the other interesting things like Art, Debating and the Musical.

**Mr Greg Lill**

**Principal**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS



**U**ninstall 2020, it's got a virus.

It might seem unthinkable to find anything funny when you're struggling with one of life's biggest disasters. But, finding your sense of humour when facing adversity is one way we can build resilience.

We all face adversity from time to time, individually needing to navigate around roadblocks, sometimes with great success, while at other times, it is a very real struggle.

It can be said with certainty that the entire world faced one huge, big adversity, and it had a name: the coronavirus disease of 2019, also known as COVID-19.

The social and economic impacts of this pandemic have been severe. As a school, we've gone from navigating our way through the peak response, playing our role as an

essential provider whilst doing our part to "flatten the curve" and supporting our community, teachers, students and families as we rebuild post-pandemic and recover. There were very contentious aspects of the coronavirus response that we needed to sensitively navigate through; however, this only highlighted the strength of our Hunters Hill High team and our strong partnerships that we have built with our community. We were able to adapt, evolve and reinvent the way we do things to provide a stable environment for our students and ensure their continuity of learning. The school staff and psychologists did an amazing job during COVID to stay in contact with students needing the extra support and assisted families in need.

You may think we had a premonition about what the year ahead would have in store for us when we chose our Staff Development

Day theme: “teamwork”, or Together Everyone Achieves More.

2020, whilst challenging, has had some things worth mentioning. Firstly, we welcomed another substantive Deputy Principal to our team, Mrs Michelle Donovan. Talk about needing to hit the ground running!

Once again, Open Day 2020 was a fabulous and lively event. The entire staff worked as a well-oiled machine to deliver a well-loved local community affair.



Looking back on the photos from Open Day 2020, we can really appreciate the freedoms we enjoyed in our pre-COVID lives. Many of our 2020 community engagement events have had to become virtual reality rather than face to face. However, staff, students and parents have swiftly embraced digital technologies to attend Parent Teacher Nights, P&C Meetings, Year Transition Information Evenings. Even this year's Orientation Day will be an online Virtual Tour. A 4C-inspired Executive Meeting via Zoom was made memorable as we raced around our own homes for costume items for SUPER COVID TEACHING HEROES Team Theme Professional Learning.

Late in Term 3, our HHHS mini bus arrived, bright and shiny and new. Unfortunately, we were not able to use it to its full potential, with COVID restricting our variation to routines and excursions. However, staff have started to diligently complete training for their bus licences to assist with excursions, events and sport competitions. Mr Law was the first of many teachers to get his Light Vehicle Rigid Licence.

In 2020, we were delighted to form a number of Merit Selection Panels and would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parent Representatives who volunteered their time to represent the Parent Community as part of this process. As Deputy Principals, it was a wonderful feeling to employ people and provide stability and direction for staff at HHHS. Through merit selection, we appointed Head Teacher Administration, Mr Kenji Luk; Relieving HT Teaching and Learning, Ms Carly Jelfs; Engineering teacher, Mr Danny Nguyen; and Maths teacher, Marlen Ghalloub. We extend a warm welcome to each new team member.

During our Academic Review process and with the assistance of our transition team, Mr Bastian and Ms Polak, we had many young people from Years 10, 11 and 12 successfully transition into post-school opportunities including apprenticeships, full-time work, and post-school studies.

The highlight, and standout events for the year have to be the Year 12 Graduation and Formal. After many weeks and months of speculation and fretting, we were able to hold these events face to face following strict COVID guidelines. Special thanks to Warwick McAlpine, Year 12 Advisor, for guiding Year 12 students through these events.

**Mrs Michelle Donovan (7, 8,11)**

**Ms Michelle Chiew-Meldrum (8,10,12)**

**Deputy Principals**

# P&C REPORT



**T**he P&C managed to undertake a big year of reform in 2020, despite it also being a year of serious upheaval as a result of the global pandemic. Our ability to simultaneously create positive change and demonstrate resilience in the face of changes imposed on us speaks to the strength of our school community.

Reforms in the way the P&C operates its core functions have been widespread and significant, and we hope they will result in lasting benefits for the school community for years to come. In 2020, the P&C changed financial management systems to Xero, making our accounting accurate and our financial position much more transparent. We also engaged new service suppliers: a new bookkeeper (a

chartered accountant and HHHS alumni), as well as a new auditor, to provide modern, professional services to the P&C. Our financial reporting and our financial position has never been better.

These measures, while they may seem boring or bureaucratic in nature, mean that the P&C can deliver exciting opportunities for our students, because we have certainty of the funds we can invest in facilities for the school, and because the core business of the P&C is running smoothly. This enables the Executive and participating parents to focus on what matters: creating possibilities for our children and the school.

In 2020, we proudly invested almost \$170,000 in new facilities at Hunters Hill High School, including a \$55,000



contribution towards an \$82,000 refit of the fitness centre; which has created the best gym and fitness facility of any public school in NSW. The P&C continued its investment in TAS technologies, purchasing a second laser cutter and a CNC milling machine for \$77,000, and committed \$28,000 to performing arts, including a new digital piano and upgraded lighting and staging in the Hall, which will enable Entertainment HSC courses to be offered at HHHS.

Finally, we were pleased to receive a funding proposal from the Student Representative Council for an \$8,000 new bike rack accommodating 40 bikes, thereby promoting fitness and independence in our students.

The reforms undertaken by the P&C in 2020 did not come out of the blue. They

built on earlier reforms undertaken by previous P&C Executives. One key reform has been the management our uniform shop, which has resulted in a reduced stock liability of more than \$70,000, and allowed the school community to review the current uniform in 2020. A Uniform Review is never a small or a simple undertaking, and it was long overdue at HHHS. The P&C is proud to have conducted a genuinely consultative process that has delivered changes to our uniform that truly reflect the school community's views and offer improved choice, improved comfort, modernity and an overall improved appearance in our student body. Importantly, gender neutral items have been properly included. Our students are wearing their uniforms well, and we look forward to seeing new items being introduced throughout 2021.



In 2020, we farewelled our long-standing Canteen Manager of 16years, Bronwyn Clark, who resigned to commence her retirement after an incredible run of service and commitment to HHHS. The P&C warmly thanks Bronwyn for her dedication to our school community and we wish her well in her retirement.

Whenever you have a new manager, there's always an exciting opportunity to put new ideas and approaches into action, and our new Canteen Manager, Anna Stevis, has been given a mandate by the P&C to refresh the canteen service. The changes in canteen offerings, introduced in late 2020, especially the provision of freshly-cooked meals, have been extremely popular with staff and students, and very profitable for the P&C. We expect the canteen to build on that wonderful new beginning in 2021, and we look forward to the canteen providing the P&C with a steady and significant stream

of funds that can be invested back into the school year on year.

Unfortunately, 2020 was not a great year for our extracurricular activities, with performing arts opportunities vastly inhibited by the impact of the pandemic. There was no Variety Night, no eisteddfods, no public performances in front of live audiences for our dance troupes, music ensembles, and stage performers. However, our Coordinators, Jenny Nyland, Jess Kimber and Dianna Rich worked brilliantly with the Creative & Performing Arts Department Head, Jenny Sibley, to create two fantastic programs that were recorded and distributed to the school community.

While this was a wonderful example of the parents and teachers thinking outside the square, nothing beats a live audience, and we hope our students have an opportunity to shine on stage in the near future. The P&C is grateful to students, parents, our







tutors and coordinators for hanging in there and keeping these troupes and ensembles going despite the lack of production opportunities. There is a lot of passion in the school community for the performing arts, and we hope to see that continue going forward.

The year ended on a high with the third Annual Colour Run and the Year 12 Formal, which was postponed from their usual dates in Term 3 to late November, in keeping with COVID-safety restrictions. It was a wonderful achievement to be able to safely stage these events in the school grounds in spite of the pandemic. The Colour Run and the Year 12 Formal were both displays of amazing school spirit and resilience, and they offered opportunities for the fun and connectivity that our children really deserved after a long and disrupted year of so many sacrifices.

The P&C thanks our Colour Run Coordinators, Suzanne Kimpton and Robin Butterfield for yet another fantastic event. Our particular thanks go to Robin

Butterfield for organising the Year 12 Formal at the last minute, when a tiny window opened up to do so safely. The students and families of the Class of 2020 are indebted to you for your service to the school and to this cohort.

Finally, the 2020 P&C year has best been characterised by a strong sense of partnership with the school leadership. We have worked on deepening our collaboration with our Principal, Mr Lill and our Deputy Principals Mrs Donovan and Ms Chiew-Meldrum, our Relieving Deputy Mr Sherwin, and importantly our School Administrators, Jo Harris and Martha Maroon. Not only does this commitment reflect one of the key pedagogies of HHHS, but through collaboration and mutual support, we know we can achieve the best possible outcomes for the school.

Team HHHS is looking forward to 2021!

**Jacqueline Crompton**

**Head of the Hunters Hill High School P&C**



TEACHING AND  
LEARNING  
REPORTS



# ENGLISH

***“It has been my philosophy of life that difficulties vanish when faced boldly.”***

**- Isaac Asimov**

To begin, English would like to acknowledge our wonderful students, families and staff for the grit and resilience that has been demonstrated during this wholly unprecedented year. We have all navigated the uncertain waters of remote learning with great tenacity and determination and the English faculty couldn't be more pleased and proud of the unity among our learners and school community.

During the remote learning period, the English faculty engaged students in creative writing topics such as Speculative Fiction, Crime Fiction and a Creative Writing portfolio. This was a

rare opportunity for students to really embrace their independence in refining and exploring their creativity, and ability to craft and explore language. The creative pieces that students submitted were thoroughly enjoyed by the English faculty, and reflected strong engagement with the resources that were sent through the English Google Classrooms.

It was of the utmost importance for the faculty to maintain our strong rapport with students during the school closure and we found Zoom lessons to be a fantastic way to achieve this. Many classes enjoyed Zoom scavenger hunts, Kahoots, trivia, group activities in break out rooms and even staging a crime scene! Students were tested by this experience, emotionally, socially, technologically and academically, and they won!

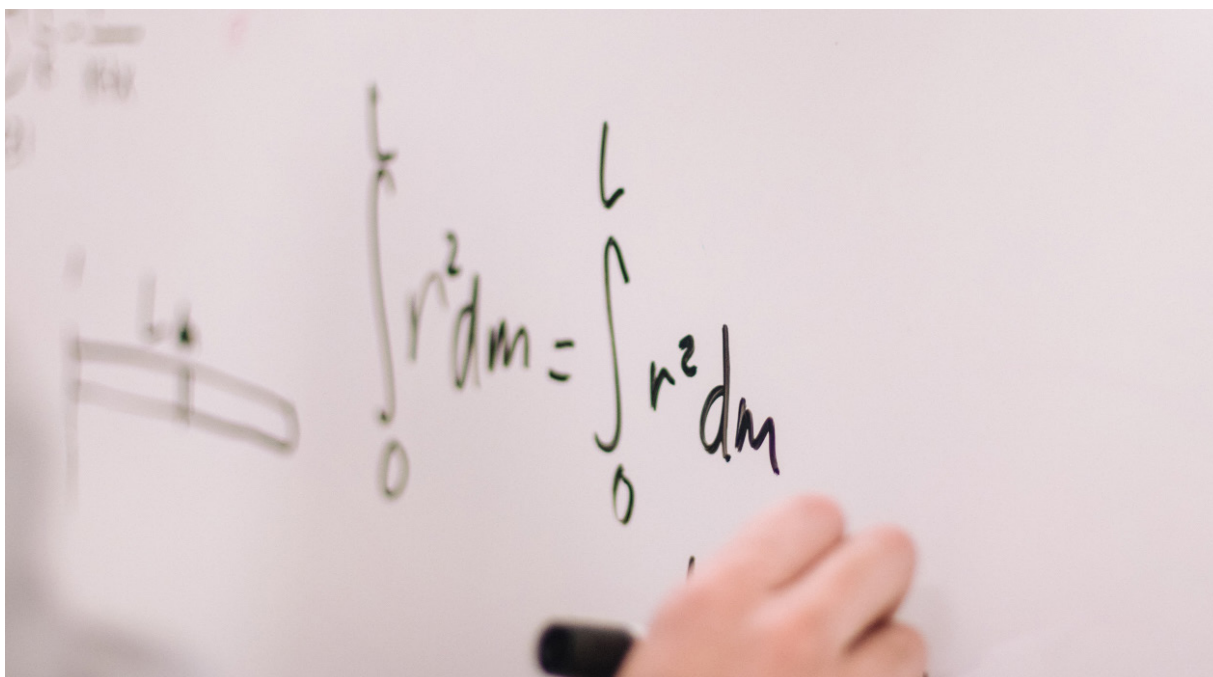
After our remote learning experience, students quickly adjusted to life back at school and even during this unsettled and unpredictable period, we managed to strive and succeed! Our debaters made it to the final round of their competitions and all have experienced their first Zoom debates. Our Year 12s sustained their positive attitudes and achieved impressive results in the Trial HSC while the entire school community maintained their spirit through trying times. Yes, 2020 you gave us some difficulty, but we faced you boldly.

**Ms Alicia O'Donnell**

**Head Teacher English**



# MATHEMATICS



**T**he Mathematics faculty has continued to grow this year and, while 2020 has brought with it a number of challenges, it has also taught us new skills and practices. We welcomed a few new staff: Mr Luke Baczynskyj and Mr Anup Bajgai as new permanent staff in Term One, and Ms Marlen Ghalloub, who accepted a permanent position in Term 4. I would also like to thank Mr Michael Johnston for his commitment to the Mathematics faculty this year.

Our commitment to incorporating 4Cs pedagogies into our Mathematics teaching has been a challenging, but enjoyable, journey. We have found that students are beginning to share their observations and their thinking in the Mathematics

classroom more readily: they are finding their voice and taking more agency in their learning. They are also beginning to see that there are many similarities in their peer's experiences in learning Maths. I personally saw this growth in our Year 12 students, who worked consistently to develop a stronger reflective practice, coming into their own as successful learners, on their approach to their HSC examinations.

The implementation of 4Cs and our growing faculty called for some changes in rooming, and the Mathematics faculty was lucky to receive a new learning space. The modular desks mean that the room can be arranged to accommodate small and large groups. The room also has whiteboards lining each of the walls, which has allowed

students to make their thinking more visible, prompting easy peer assessment and deeper conversations about effective and appropriate practices. We're hopeful we can implement other such upgrades next year and maximise the use of these resources throughout the faculty.

During Term One, as the COVID situation escalated and we were faced with the possibility of remote learning, we made a commitment to provide all students with access to MathsOnline, entirely funded by Hunters Hill High School. While this online resource was used regularly by teachers throughout the year to provide learning activities for students, it really shone when students took initiative in their learning and used MathsOnline as an effective part of their reflective practice: practise, assess, reflect, and repeat. Students were able to access content from their current year as well as previous years, with video explanations, questions to practise and diagnostic activities.

The Numeracy Centre has continued to be a mainstay for the Mathematics faculty into 2020. The Numeracy Centre works on an opt-in basis; students are encouraged to attend, and can choose when, depending on their needs. Primarily used for students to receive support with their learning, students also use the time to complete outstanding homework and assessments. It was particularly helpful for students seeking to remedy the challenges experienced with remote learning earlier this year. I am grateful to the staff who continue to volunteer their own lunch times to further support student learning and engagement. In 2021, the Numeracy Centre will continue to operate during

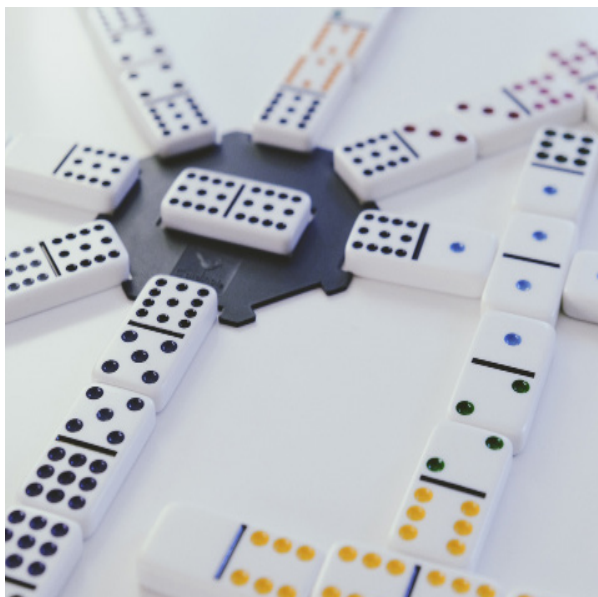
lunch times every day but Tuesday.

Unfortunately, our annual World of Maths Roadshow excursion for Year 7 students had to be postponed this year. We hope to invite them back to Hunters Hill High School in 2021 to provide both Year 7 and 8 students an opportunity to apply Mathematics to practical and real-life situations through a number of challenging Mathematical puzzles.

However, we were still able to participate in the APSMO Intra-school Mathematics Olympiad this year, with over 60 students from Year 7 and 8 taking part. The Mathematics Olympiad is a contest for students to show off their problem solving skills. Students demonstrated their capacity through a series of five contests (each consisting of five challenging questions) over the course of the year. Congratulations to the Years 7 and 8 students who achieved the highest scores and demonstrated a commendable enthusiasm in this year's Intra-school Mathematics Olympiad.







These students are:

**Year 8: Giovanni Choi; Marika Paton; Shimmer Bath; Raoul Reddy; Upraajj Singh.**

**Year 7: James McHugh; Sebastian Kidner; Isla Macdonald Dilan Bate; Zeynep Erdogmus.**

This year saw the completion of the first HSC examinations for the new Mathematics Advanced and Extension courses, although this was the second year for the Mathematics Standard 2 course. The new courses have proven to be interesting, with challenging, but engaging content. The HSC exams had some really stimulating questions as common content for the Standard and Advanced courses; you may have heard about the crickets!

We continued to engage our students with interesting and dynamic Mathematical investigations in Stage 6. Year 12 Extension 1 students investigated Proof by Mathematical Induction, looking closely into the practice of peer assessment and

feedback. They also investigated false proofs, those that satisfy the requirements of Mathematical Induction, but have weak assumptions or poor transitions between the base and inductive cases. Ask them to prove that everybody has the same name! Extension 2 students designed an aerobatic display involving multiple aircraft using vectors to represent motion and stunts, like having two planes fly through the same plume of fire! In Year 12 Mathematics Advanced, students assessed the validity of Wisdom of the Crowds, which is the idea that the collective opinion of a group of individuals is more accurate than that of a single expert. This statistical investigation had them create a test to evaluate this idea, which then required surveying and data collection skills, as well as challenging students to demonstrate their capacity to analyse that data to argue a conclusion.

Those in Year 11 Advanced maintained a learning journal throughout the topic of Introduction of Differential Calculus, which helped to develop the strong reflective practices that will see them be successful in their HSC preparation. Students studying Mathematics Standard 2 investigated the Mathematics of laying a network of submarine cables between a number of cities, determining the most efficient and cost-effective path.

We look forward to an engaging year in Mathematics in 2021.

**Mr Ben Neilsen**

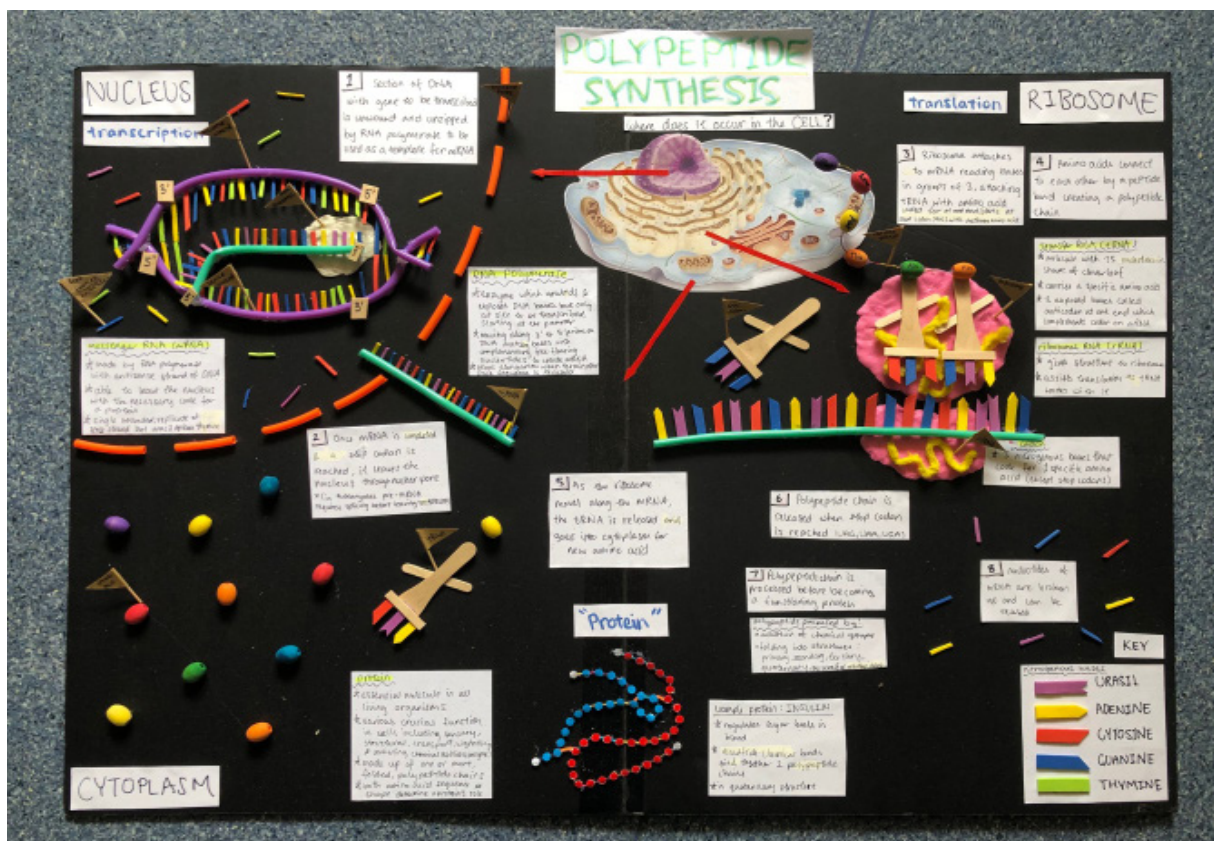
**Head Teacher Mathematics**

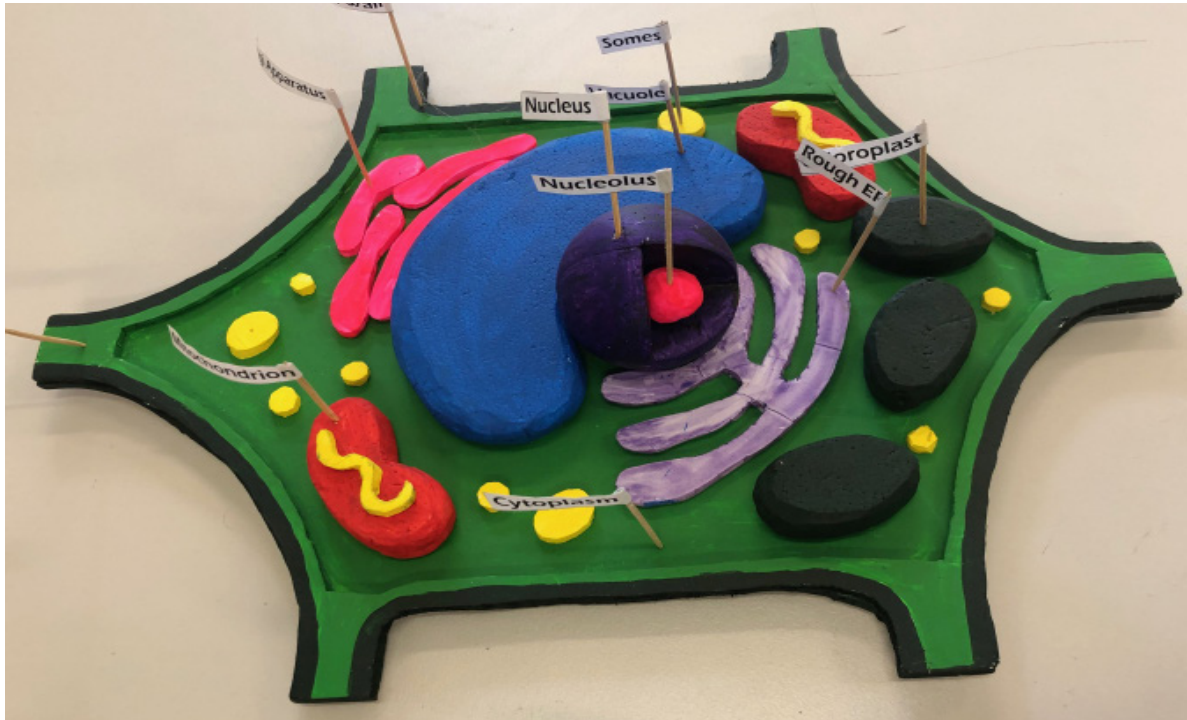
# SCIENCE

This year has been a challenging time for everyone, but also a fantastic learning experience. During the year, both staff and students were challenged to build their resilience and ability to work independently. I would like to thank the whole Science faculty for their incredibly hard work throughout the year, especially with all the extra challenges presented by the pandemic.

The HSC students of 2020 stepped up to the challenges of the year and the demands of their courses. In Biology,

students built on their ability to analyse and evaluate research when they learned about the impact of a genetic disorder and how it can be diagnosed, treated, or managed now or in the future. In Physics, students made models to explain electromagnetism. Some built models of motors, wireless phone chargers and more. Chemistry students had to meet a challenge of working chemists: they needed to perform an experiment and calculations to work out what was in an unknown solution. This took precision, skill, and concentration to determine the components. Finally, in Investigating





Science, students looked at the way media and marketing try to manipulate us and how we can avoid falling for their tricks.

The extra challenges of this year forced a few changes to our plan for Years 7 to 10 assessment tasks, but we will continue to reflect on and improve our portfolios of work. We are very proud of the way many students are continuing to show their thinking and learning in the classroom and their ability to reflect on their understanding. We too will continue to reflect on our own teaching and learning to build everyone's ability to demonstrate creativity, critical reflection, collaboration, and communication.

As part of our revitalisation of Year 9, students were given the opportunity to experiment with a variety of different renewable energy sources this year. Students investigated wind turbines and

solar panels to determine what makes them most efficient. They tried to answer questions, including how many blades should a wind turbine have and what size should they be? How do wind turbines affect bird populations? Do solar panels work best when connected by series or parallel circuits? Students performed a variety of experiments to answer these questions. We will be continuing to build on Years 7 to 10 topics next year.

The introduction of the 4Cs learning approach has led to some fantastic learning experiences throughout the school year. Students have debated the ethics of organ transplantation and classes have spent time reflecting on their learning. For example, Year 12 Biology recently build models of cell replication processes and reflected on their learning using mini whiteboards.



The Science faculty also continued to utilise the ALARM framework to support students' writing and ability to engage in higher-order thinking. This has assisted with their writing and thinking skills both in the context of Science, and in other subject areas. We are continuing to build student capacity for deep understanding this year and next by working with others in the school on the 4Cs learning approach. We are excited to provide students with more opportunities to develop their communication, collaboration, creativity and critical reflection using this approach.

During Semester Two, Years 8 and Year 10 students undertook the Validation of Assessment 4 Learning and Individual Development (VALID) tests. This program provides an online assessment

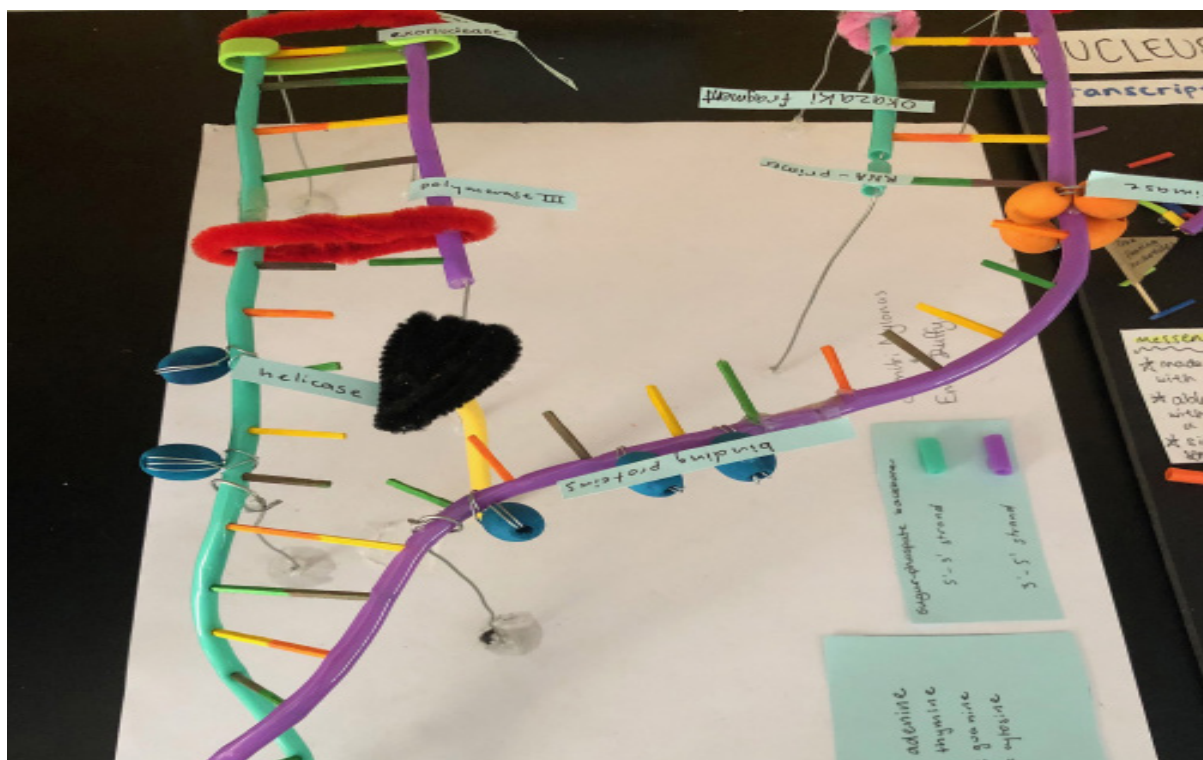
for Science. VALID assists the school to monitor students' achievement and will continue to inform our teaching and learning practices for the future.

Unfortunately, this year we couldn't invite primary students for Hands on Science, but we look forward to bringing the program back in the future. Top of the Hill was able to go ahead and students had a great time learning about Science in high school. We look forward to welcoming more students next year.

2020 has been a productive year for Science, and we look forward to next year as the school continues to grow.

**Ms Deanne Sawyer**

**Head Teacher Science**



# HUMAN SOCIETY & ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)



The year has seen many challenges, but students and teachers have made the most of these difficulties to thrive and test themselves under adverse conditions. The HSIE faculty staff remained largely unchanged from 2019, but saw the addition of Mr Alex Anicic who has joined the team to teach junior HSIE subjects and Modern History. In addition, Mr Luk was appointed as the permanent Head Teacher of Administration, confirming his position as a valuable and experienced teacher in the areas of Commerce and Business Studies.

While in lockdown, HSIE staff endeavoured to provide students with the best possible resources to keep them engaged through home learning. We saw the introduction

of Zoom as a regular classroom feature and both students and staff had to display resilience in working in unfamiliar settings.

We were excited as a staff body to see our students return during Term 2, where our focus shifted to the traditional classroom and providing students with a range of pedagogical practices. HSIE staff have embraced the 4Cs approach to learning as led by Ms Razko, one of the school's teacher mentors. As a faculty, we have embraced the opportunity to engage our students to be active learners and undertake critical lifelong learning skills and practices.

The HSIE faculty sought to engage our students with extracurricular activities where possible, given the restrictions



through the year on excursions. The Year 7 teachers aimed to integrate further primary research into their programs by allowing our students to undertake water testing to make findings about the quality of the water in the Lane Cove River. Other Geography classes have run online research activities to source primary and secondary data to facilitate student understanding of a range of geographical and historical issues. With the introduction of Stage 6 Aboriginal Studies and Economics in 2019, we have had our students reach completion of new courses that have been recently introduced. We look forward to running these courses again in the future.

The HSIE staff continued to assist students in their roles as wellbeing mentors. Mrs Pena has continued to play a significant role in her capacity as a Creating Chances mentor and Year 7 Year Advisor, while Mr McAlpine has played a highly significant role as Year 12 Year Advisor, helping the group navigate through an extremely difficult final year of schooling. Furthermore, Mr Skinner has continued in his role as Relieving HSIE Head Teacher one day a week, while also fulfilling the role as the new Year 10 Year Advisor. In addition to the U-Matter program introduced by the school, the HSIE faculty continues to recognise the importance of our students' physical and mental wellbeing.

Throughout the school year, our longstanding teachers such as Mr Barclay, Ms Aniello, Ms Gerofi and Ms Apostolou used their experience in their capacity as HSC teachers to provide invaluable insights and guidance to Year 12. This assisted our Year 12s to be as prepared as possible for their final examinations. The faculty was lucky to have so many experienced HSC markers as well as teachers newly

appointed to this position in 2019 and 2020, which ultimately provides greater insight for our students on the finer points of being thoroughly prepared for the most significant examinations of their life. The broad diversity of subjects offered by the HSIE faculty has provided a vast array of opportunities for our student body.

The year certainly presented hurdles across the entire school, but also provided us with the opportunity for new initiatives and subjects to be offered. In 2021, the HSIE faculty is excited to offer further opportunities for our senior students with the introduction of both Business Services and Geography in Stage 6. This is a testament to the passion the teachers show for their respective humanities subjects and the response from students who have embraced the opportunities to be engaged with many contemporary issues that affect the modern world. In what will be an exciting year ahead, the ability to engage with more real-world experiences, including undertaking primary research and work placements will provide students with fundamental skills that they will require as they progress through their school lives.

So, while 2020 presented its hurdles, the faculty embraced these difficulties with diligence and we are grateful to our student body, their families and the wider community for supporting us through the complexities of the year.

**Mr David Sherwin**

**Head Teacher HSIE**

# CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS (CAPA)



**O**ur school year commenced with the usual buzz of excitement, energy and lots of planned events in sight.

Visual Arts capitalised on the audience of the Year 7 information night for our first event and hosted a whole school Art Exhibition where every Year 7 student's self-portrait was on display and became part of a lucky dip draw. Art work from all grades was exhibited along with individual projects created outside of the classroom. The Year 12 music class performed a gutsy version of "Don't Stop Me Now" from Queen along with a selection of works

from their individual HSC programs. Additionally, the TAS faculty indulged us all with canapés and fresh fruit as we all enjoyed the conversations with new families and students.

By Week Six, we were emptying music classrooms into corridors and the Theatrette in preparation for the painters. This was no mean feat as each room has a collection of instruments, computers, amps and books as well as desks, chairs, pianos, drum kits and cupboards to support three concurrent classes. The music staff and many of our students pitched in moving item by item with the

GA team doing the heavy lifting. For the next two weeks, we were all scattered throughout the school amidst all of the growing concerns of the virus. Then suddenly, we were in lockdown.

The painters completed the task just in time and the clean white walls now look bright and fabulous and what seemed at first to be the worst timing for painting turned out to be the best. With the support once again of the GA team and a handful of students, the task of rebuilding the classrooms without interrupting any classes took place over the first three weeks of Term Two. Our keyboard lab was extended into the storeroom next door and can now seat around 26 students comfortably with improved access for staff. Ukulele hanging racks were constructed and worn out whiteboards were replaced. The music rooms not only look fantastic, but are highly functional for all of our classes. This all took a small army of support from staff and students and we're truly grateful.

As we transitioned to remote learning, Miss Colligan created a fun online message from the staff to students including messages from the Principal and teachers, some silly study techniques and a song. We all needed a good laugh and the staff sure enjoyed it. Miss Tombs and Miss Colligan had to think of new ways of creating performance opportunities and the online Soiree was one of their brilliant ideas. Normally, this September event would have an audience of family and friends of the ensemble members for a night of performance in the hall. This year, the performance was professionally filmed, edited and uploaded on the school's web

site. The performers had to be each other's audience and they were outstanding in supporting and encouraging each other. We were all very proud of the kids.

Our HSC students in Drama, Music and Visual Arts were resilient in their preparation for performances and major works and never complained about the circumstances of this year. We've enjoyed some great news which you'll read about in the following articles. It has been a joy seeing each of these young people develop their skills and character through all types of challenges.

Customarily, Year 12 teachers host a showcase of student work in August, where parents and the community are invited to view, watch and listen to HSC major works. Visual Arts teacher Ms Scenna created a School Showcase event in Week One of Term 4 where the student population had the opportunity to be inspired by the creative talent of our seniors. It was a great success and another example of staff ensuring that all of our school continued to flourish this year.





Ms Wong has ensured that our student VA works were entered into the Young In Art competition held at Hunters Hill Council and our students secured a staggering 10 of the 14 prizes. Among these works were a variety of sculpture, photography, paintings and group work.

As we continue to cater for 21st-century learners, the Music staff have created a sound recording studio in B Block and are working with professionals in the field of editing. Discussions are underway for future projects and performance events as our numbers and capacity increase and the future of creative education at Hunters Hill High is in excellent hands.

**Mrs Jenny Sibley**

**Head Teacher CAPA**



### **ENSEMBLES**

This year was a challenging one for the Ensembles, with constant rule changes for the Creative Arts in NSW. We did have to stop all rehearsals and practice sessions during lockdown, which lasted a couple of months. However, when the restrictions eased off and the government gave us permission, we were straight back into the swing of regular rehearsals! The students demonstrated great commitment and perseverance throughout this time and a willingness to adapt and keep up to date with the new rules and social distancing. Some of our ensembles with vocalists and wind instruments waited the longest time to return and still had to adapt to differing distancing rules, but the show must go on! (And, rehearsals too.)

With the supporting hand of Jenny Nylund from the P&C, there was seamless communication between parents, students, ensemble conductors and myself. With this in mind, we were still able to forge through with resilience and coordinate an opportunity for the students to showcase the talents and skills that they had developed throughout the year



at the Hunters Hill High School Annual Soiree. It looked different this year from behind the scenes as the show had to be pre-recorded and then published over the internet. As we were unable to host a parent audience, we had the students in the ensembles rally together on the night to create a full audience, cheering for each performance. The sound and lighting team displayed a tasteful and colourful lighting backdrop for each act whilst producing professional sound quality audio for the final video edit. Parent Jamie Hurworth worked tirelessly as our videographer and produced a professional-quality film of the night which included our ever-so-entertaining MCs Nelson Lanfear and Sammy Hurworth from Year 9. A pizza party was thrown to congratulate, reward and thank the students for their dedication and commitment over the year, as well as

the resilience they have shown in these difficult times. Thank you to the parents who also made this possible.

### **Miss Riley Tombs**

#### **Ensembles Coordinator**

#### **2020 MUSICAL**

The exciting news of a 2020 Musical did not shrink away from the impending coronavirus menace! The “Musical Affair” show still went ahead, but with a twist!

As there were restrictions in place for the community, we were not able to have an audience come to us, so we brought the show to you! The ‘Musical Affair’ was pre-recorded and published online. It included live performances from the ensembles and 'lockdown-style' video clips.

We needed to adapt and change our





approach as soon as we found out about the restrictions, so we created a student video editing team at school. Professional training was provided to the students on how to use Adobe software and exclusive use of camera equipment was granted from the Drama department. Miss Zhou coordinated the team on a Monday afternoon, and nurtured the students to capture and edit some great footage to create our video clips!

Our Musical rehearsals were consistent throughout the year with a strong group of regular students who attended every Monday afternoon. While Miss Tombs worked with the vocalists on their acapella and harmonising, Miss Colligan developed the skills of a young group of up-and-coming musicians in the band. After deciding to deliver an online show, the Music faculty created a mini recording

studio. This way, we could pre-record all the audio for our video clips which were then filmed, edited and produced by our all-student film team. The singers and musicians in the musical got to experience the fun and challenges of what it's like to record in a studio using professional recording equipment.

We were thrilled with the Musical, and hope you enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed producing it!

**Miss Riley Tombs and Miss Dani Colligan**

### **Musical Directors**

#### **DRAMA**

What a dramatic year 2020 has been! In Drama this year, our students have demonstrated their resilience and team work by constantly adapting to the significant changes placed upon them during the global pandemic. From Zoom classes to collaborating a safe 1.5 metres away, I have been thoroughly impressed by the maturity and camaraderie our students have demonstrated.

A huge congratulations to Ms Simpson who welcomed a daughter in October. We wish her all the best as she begins the next stage of her life's journey.

Our wonderful HSC students shone bright for the HSC markers and continued to diligently prepare for their exams. Despite last-minute changes deemed necessary due to COVID restrictions, their Individual Projects and Group Performances were amazing. We are so proud of each of you. We were also delighted to receive notification that Jonathan Niccola had been nominated for On Stage.

Our new Year 12 students have already begun their HSC journey and are looking forward to following in the footsteps of their peers. They have been investigating the traditions of Australian Theatre and have begun their Individual Projects. Again, we are delighted to see a mix of monologues, critical reviews and script writing. We are so fortunate to have a talented group of students.

Our Year 10 Drama students have continued to develop impressive skills in both performance and critical analysis. They have been analysing how playwrights reflect aspects of society to challenge assumptions. Through practical workshops, our students have been using their knowledge of production elements to envisage how these performances would be realised on the stage.

Drama class in 2020 have certainly been interesting; however, the connections and friendships formed have enabled lasting experiences which will deepen our students' connections into the future.

**Mrs Jenny Sibley**

**Head Teacher CAPA**

### **THE CREATIVE MIND EXHIBITION 2020**

This year was Hunters Hill High School's inaugural exhibition, The Creative Mind. It hosted an artwork from every Visual Arts student from Years 8 to 12, as well as including our new Year 7 students and their self-portraits. The opening night was a huge success, with wonderful music performances from the Year 12 HSC class and canapés created by Zeljka Karac and the Year 11 Hospitality students. The Mayor of Hunters Hill, the Honorary Mark A. Bennett, graciously presented awards to all of the nominees and the overall winners of each year group category. A very special mention should be made to Daniel Dominguez for his inspiring words on the arts. Thanks too to Ryde Art Scene and The Happy Hens (led by Hunters Hill High School parent Emma Curnow) for providing our students with generous prizes including art supplies and vouchers. And a special thanks to our principal, Mr Lill for being a supportive voice throughout the event. During the evening, all audience members were invited to vote for the People's Choice Award, which was awarded to Year 12 student Rose Schafer.



The nominees and winners in each category included:

**YEAR 7**

**Self-Portrait excellence**

Rowan Cameron

Zoe Varga

Eden Seedsman

Isla Macdonald

Dominic Leo

Owen Astridge

Alexa Bridges

Sophie Wright

Janice Choknirum

Alma Levy

**YEAR 8**

**Alchemy**

Helika Singh

Sabrina Lau

Linh Mai

Raoul Reddy

Nuttarika Suaysom

Me and My Shadow

Ada Gocer

Emma Ford

Grace O'Boyle.

Bejihan Maung

Zenon Pate



**YEAR 9**

**Cultural Perspectives**

Amelia Lee

Robbie Little

Jacinta Smilas

Angus Kenchington

Lola Tanchitsa

**Dimensions**

Elsa Pulvirenti

Nina Schafer

Mackenzie Lockery

Hannah brown

Aden Boyle

**YEAR 10**

Levi Christoffersen

Sophia Kane



Jessica Rule  
Ayn Gatchalian  
Jocelyn Cameron

**YEAR 11**

**Photography**

Liam Bailey  
Tamara Shawky  
Maxim Bailey  
Darcey Kimber  
William Tu

**Visual Arts**

Madelaine Zwart  
Imogen Coote  
Zachary Clifton  
Millie Cole  
Emily Bennett

**YEAR 12**

Rose Schafer  
Maximilian Kennedy  
Tibet Fidan

Sam Galati  
Dylan Waldron

**Photography**

Claire Butterfield  
Rose Schafer

**Mrs Dom Scenna**

**Visual Arts Teacher**

**YEAR 12 VISUAL ARTS HSC**

Year 12 Visual Arts HSC students have worked determinedly throughout the year to submit exciting and conceptually engaging pieces. In a truly unpredictable year, our students were able to persevere and complete their Bodies of Work with passion and refinement. A special congratulations is awarded to Erin Norris who was nominated to Art Express for her Body of Work Horae (Ladies of the Season). Congratulations to Erin and our entire Year 12 Visual Arts student cohort for all of your accomplishments.

**Mrs Dom Scenna**

**Visual Arts Teacher**



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PDHPE)



**A**fter a year of personnel changes in 2019, 2020 brought an air of stability to the PDHPE Faculty, with Mr Smith, Mr Habbouchi, Ms Wilson, Mr Neild, Mrs Mazzitelli and Mr Bastian on deck for what was to be a year like no other! Little did we know it when we turned up for work in January...

After laying some ground work at the end of last year, Years 7 to 10 were faced with a

completely renovated curriculum for 2020. Underpinned by the new NESAs PDHPE syllabus, and using the whole school pedagogical approaches of 4Cs and ALARM, students were treated to a vastly different learning experience. Records of learning went 100% electronic, with the majority of students working from their personal electronic devices and others utilising the hardworking faculty set of Chromebooks



to complete their in-class learning tasks. There was also an explosion of small group and whole-class collaborative tasks to develop students' critical and creative thinking in PDHPE.

To enable this, the PDHPE faculty became the first faculty at HHS to use the Microsoft Teams interface as a learning portal. This was used by all classes from Years 7-10 for PDHPE, as well as Year 9 and 10 PASS and Year 11 PDHPE. While Teams has similar features to Google Classroom, its synchronisation with Microsoft OneNote allowed staff greater structuring capability, as well as a more fluid experience checking student work. This move proved to be an absolute lifesaver once the remote learning period commenced, as teachers were able to effectively "push" all learning experiences to students electronically, as well as host virtual class meetings from within the Teams interface.

2020, also saw a record engagement with mandatory assessment tasks, with more students than ever across Years 7-10 submitting their assessment tasks on time. Furthermore, teachers received record requests from students for feedback on drafts of assessments, which led to a steady improvement in results.

Mr Neild and Mr Habbouchi led the charge with the launch of the new PASS units of work, which saw students exposed to new and exciting sports such as Fist Ball and Spike Ball. These proved to be immensely popular with the students. They also ran the inaugural PASS Decathlon Championship, a fantastic one-day event for our two Year 9 PASS classes, which saw plenty of fantastic competition, as well as consumption of student-sourced sports nutrition options to power their performances. 9PASS also combined well with 10PASS to deliver the highly successful Year 7 Gala Day, which was coordinated by Ms Wilson to run for





our students at school as a COVID-pivoted event after Zone Gala Day was cancelled.

Another COVID-pivot was in response to the cancellation of the Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals. Students competed within their PDHPE classes in the COVID-19 Championships, participating in Cross Country, 100m, Shot Put, Discus and Javelin. Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards were bestowed upon each class for Boys and Girls Divisions in each event, before electronic tallying of combined results allowed for the determination of both class and year group champions. While our students thoroughly enjoyed this experience, they are looking forward to getting back to the real thing in 2021!

Mr Habbouchi, Ms Wilson and Mr Smith also worked tirelessly with their Year 12 classes to ensure that the remote learning lockdown period did not jeopardise their chances of HSC completion. This resulted in a record number of holiday sessions and

practice trial exams being administered to our HSC PDHPE and CAFS classes to put them in best position to succeed.

Finally, the faculty would like to thank Mr Bastian for his dedicated service to the PDHPE faculty and to the role of Sports Organiser throughout 2019 and 2020. He has done a wonderful job with classes and more importantly, he has delivered a quality school sports program that has delivered many positive experiences for our students. Mr Bastian will remain HHHS for 2021 and will be leading up other whole-school initiatives, as well as teaching with HSIE Faculty. We thank him for his professionalism and we look forward to welcoming Ms Reynolds as our new PDHPE Teacher and Sports Organiser in 2021.

**Mr Leif Smith**

**Head Teacher PDHPE**

# TECHNOLOGY & APPLIED SCIENCES (TAS)

I would like to thank the entire TAS Faculty for an outstanding year. It has been a productive year with many students reaching heights they may have thought not possible at the commencement of 2020.

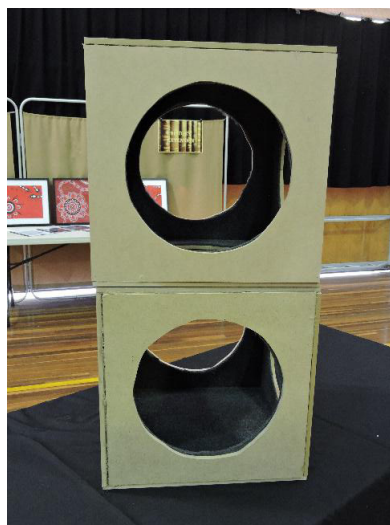
With an interrupted start to the year and home-schooling being part of semester one, I would also like to congratulate and thank the students and parents for embracing the time and supporting one another so that the work for TAS department set was completed.

Year 7 Technology Mandatory produced some outstanding marble mazes. With Ms Hunt adjusting the design and coding elements, the new and improved version has been a hit with students.

Ms Herlihy Went is to be thanked for her efforts in the Agriculture unit, as Hunters Hill High School is one of only a select few schools in the state that has been allocated an IFarm; this is a federal initiative to enable school students to study and gather data on the impacts of various agriculture processes.

In 2020, the Technology Department was lucky to have Ms Helena Dowdall join the faculty. Ms Dowdall came to Hunters Hill with a love for teaching. Her textile classes produced a Monster Toy and supporting portfolio of the highest standard.

Under the guidance of Ms Hunt, the Year 9 Design and Technology class produced an architectural project in the form of a teenager retreat, while in Semester







Two, students learned about cultural and historical design styles. Drawing upon this, they then developed a graphic print for a cushion cover. Year 10 Design and Technology created a “one plank project” which saw students develop skills in Google SketchUp, and then take their designs to produce a product out of a single piece of wood, 1200 x 290 mm. The work produced was outstanding.

With the guidance of Ms Dowdall, Year 9 Food Technology studied the units of Food Equity and Food for Specific Needs. In Food Equity, the students were exposed to the inequity of food access on a global scale. Students investigated local networks and organisations before designing a menu using surplus food from the kitchen that would support their chosen organisation.

Food in Australia and Food for Special Occasions were our two Year 10 units. Students cooked with bush spices and developed an Australia-themed biscuit while investigating migration and the influence immigration has had on Australian foods. In Food for Special Occasions, students investigated reasons for celebration. This resulted in producing delicious foods for Bastille Day and Remembrance Day.

Under the watchful eye of Ms Herlihy Went, Year 9 Industrial Technology Timber developed many new workshop skills. While making a wall cabinet, students learnt about widening joints, rebate and mitre joints and how to produce them using the domino and biscuit joiner. In Year 10 Timber, the class produced a bedside cabinet, again developing further skills in the use of the plunger router and developing more complex joints.

Our VET classes this year again were exceptional in their approach to industry needs and standards. The Year 12 Construction class again was outstanding with the laying of concrete around a picnic bench on the Oval, while the Year 11 Construction class put together the P&C-funded shade seating and laid the concrete

pads to support the seating.

Hospitality had a tough year with limited work experience dates and service periods due to COVID. Ms Karac did an exceptional job in organising and having student prepare sandwich delivery day for staff and the service of meals for the school formal.

Finally, the Year 12 Design and Technology class have surpassed all expectations and challenges that this year brought and have produced an exceptional range of innovative and creative major projects. The scope of projects ranged from sustainable eatable cutlery to prefabricated modular classrooms to a full technology integrated bedside table. Students drew from previous design projects to develop their major projects. The class worked tirelessly over the year to ensure they produced projects that they are genuinely passionate about, and that demonstrate how good design can improve our lives.

Once again, I would like to thank the TAS staff for another outstanding year. To all the graduating Year 12s, thank you for making the past six years fun and exciting and all the best with your future pursuits.

**Mr Warren Pickles**

**Head Teacher TAS**



# SPANISH



Spanish began its life at HHHS with a bang. In little time, CANVAS online classrooms were set up, online booklets were uploaded, headphones and microphones work plugged in and the Spanish language began to be read spoken written and heard.

Our next step was to turn the classroom into a hub of Hispanic language and culture by decorating it. Year 9 did a magnificent job putting up displays and making posters in Spanish. Unfortunately, all the hard work had to be dismantled because the classroom was being painted but hey; at least we got a clean, freshly-painted space.

For our first task, students were asked to script, perform and video record a dialogue in Spanish with an added challenge that it had to include a Hispanic cultural twist. The results proved to be highly imaginative and skilful. A special shout out goes to the local Hispanic businesses that allowed

students to record their videos inside their premises while eating empanadas and wearing Mexican hats, or standing in front of the Mexican food section at the local supermarket. Many funny stories and positive reports were relayed to me by the business owners when I visited their premises and they found out I was the new Spanish teacher at Hunters Hill High.

COVID-19 hit hard but fortunately, we were well positioned with our CANVAS online classroom to weather the storm and were able to continue our language learning journey seamlessly.

By the time we came back from remote learning, computer workstations had been set up in the classroom, turning it into a fully functioning language laboratory and we broke in the new technology by creating cartoon stories in Spanish using block coding. Many imaginative lines of coding were developed and if application is anything to judge engagement by, it often proved very hard to get the students to take their recess or lunch break, many insisting on staying back and adding to their project.

I am pleased to report that the decorations are back up on the classroom walls, including the mandalas that students very much enjoyed making. Oh, and Year 9 adopted a lizard that comes into the classroom to say hello and to wander around every so often. The students have named him Francisco and are attempting to teach him Spanish.

**Mr Fausto Centurion**

**Spanish Teacher**



# CHINESE & LITERATURE

**D**uring 2020, Hunters Hill High School offered Chinese and Literature course for background speakers in Year 11 and Year 12. Students in both year groups actively participated in a wide range of critical thinking and collaborative activities. A Chinese Literature class library was also established and continued to expand to facilitate students' quality reading and writing skills.

Due to COVID-19, and the mandatory quarantine requirement, both Year 11 and Year 12 Chinese and Literature students were the first to experience remote learning after returning back from China at the end of January.

It takes strong self-discipline and intrinsic motivation for Year 11 students to start a brand-new course without even being in the classroom. Students actively participated in Adobe Connect lessons and posed questions to teachers regularly. They also completed group works remotely with their peers using Zoom calls, Facetime and a variety of digital tools to enhance communication. Through critically reviewing and analysing prescribed contemporary issues in this course, Year 11 students learned to research, conduct survey questionnaires and draw conclusions for the topic Young People's Pressures. In Semester Two, they held a mock election to compare and contrast educational issues between Chinese and Australian cultures. Moreover, they have also presented TEDTalk speeches reflecting the connection between overseas Chinese and their homeland.

In the Year 12 Chinese and Literature class,

students have analysed and evaluated a wide range of texts related to the contemporary issues such as changing of gender roles. They actively participated in class discussions, debates and mock interviews. Students also showed great enthusiasm when producing a collaborative music video to show their understandings of the text. A karaoke party was organised to deepen their understanding of the prescribed songs for topics Youth Culture and Perspectives on Identity.

It has been a memorable and innovative experience for our senior Chinese and Literature students at Hunters Hill High School this year.

**Ms Yuanyuan (Rebeca) Guo**

**Chinese and Literature Teacher**



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



**2**020 has been a challenging but memorable year for our international students due to COVID-19.

When all students returned to school at the end of January, the majority of our international students were in 14 days self-isolation after visiting relatives in China. Through active communication and a strong rapport between students and staff, our international students were feeling united and supported throughout

this difficult time away from their families. They were also the first group of students at Hunters Hill High School to engage in the remote learning experience and were actively engaged in all subjects.

During Term One, a group of outstanding international student representatives were invited to attend the 2020 NSW Government Schools International Student Awards ceremony at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with International Student Coordinator, Ms Guo. Two of our former

international students were shortlisted nominees: Baiyang Hu and Albert Yang. Our representatives were inspired and motivated by their fellow international students' stories across NSW.

At Open Day, volunteer senior international students promoted the Chinese course and Chinese culture with a great enthusiasm. They planned a variety of interactive cultural activities (such as table tennis and paper cutting) and showcased traditional Han Dynasty costumes for guests. They demonstrated great pride in our school and their culture through their positive actions.

This year, the P&C teamed up with the Student Representative Council and the International Student cohort to organise our annual Colour Fun Run on the 20th November. Our international student cohort held lunchtime meetings and worked closely with SRC Coordinator Ms Austin and Ms Guo to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

This year, Hunters Hill High School officially started to utilise popular social media WeChat to communicate with parents in China to further support students and parents. Our native Chinese speaker, International Student Coordinator, Ms Guo, communicated with parents during isolation to provide

useful information about school and their children. We have received a great deal of positive feedback that this communication channel has allowed parents to gain a deeper understanding of their children's lives in Australia.

Hunters Hill High School has implemented a variety of support programs to ensure the academic success of our international students. Every Tuesday afternoon, all Year 12 international students participated in a mentoring session with Ms Guo and EAL/D teacher Ms Banerjee for additional one-on-one literacy support.

Our school has a passionate and professional Learning and Support team that understands and supports international students both academically and from a wellbeing perspective. The team includes Relieving Head Teacher Teaching and Learning Ms Jelfs; Ms Guo; Ms Banerjee; Learning and Support teachers Ms Austin, Ms De Santis and Ms Dickinson; Career Advisors Ms Polak and Mr Bastian; School Psychologists Ms Abarzua, Ms Hanson and Ms Wong; Wellbeing Coordinator Ms Patten and International Student Enrolment Officer, Ms Flanagan.

**Ms Yuanyuan (Rebeca) Guo**

**International Student Coordinator**





# DEBATING



## A few “words” from the Debating Club...

**W**e are so proud of our debaters. We would like to congratulate all of them for participating and representing their school with such pride.

We had four teams this year from Year 7, 8, 9 and 10, who represented our school at the Premier’s Debating Challenge. It was especially challenging this year with the new world of online competitions. We organised several competitions over the past two terms with schools from all over NSW. Our two teams from Year 7 and 8 had a few wins and some losses, but were extremely focussed and enthusiastic right to the end. The two teams from Year 9 and 10 had knock out rounds and did really well. Our A team won all the Zonal competitions in the Repechage category and reached Round

1 of the Regionals. A special mention for all the teams: every adjudicator complimented our debaters from Hunters Hill High for their structure, confidence and excellent presentation skills.

The debaters enjoyed their club time where we discussed our strategies and learned techniques to excel in debating. As a team, we focused on the feedback received and on debating strategies to work towards future debates. We are very proud of their achievements and the intrinsic motivation to improve and better themselves with every competition.

If you are looking to get your word across and make a point, then look out for pop-up debates during lunch time with our debaters to round up 2020.

**Ms Jarita Banerjee**

**Debating Coordinator**



# LIBRARY

The Hunters Hill High School Library continued to innovate throughout 2020, with the creation of new teaching and learning spaces, as well as opportunities for students to engage in clubs, tournaments and extracurricular activities. Students could also access the school's fantastic collection of fiction and non-fiction books, which grew exponentially over the school year.

**Dr Jeffrey Errington**

**Teacher Librarian**



# STUDENT MEDIA

Throughout 2020, Hunters Hill High's stellar team of writers, artists, puzzlemakers and photographers from Years 7 to 10 produced five fantastic issues of the HHHS "Figleaf" student newspaper, while also running the school's Instagram account with immense aplomb!

Over the course of the year, the team developed their skills in a range of relevant areas, including interviewing, headline writing, food styling and graphic design during our Tuesday afternoon production meetings. Refusing to let a mere pandemic stop the presses, students continued to work on the "Figleaf" during lockdown, producing our first-ever Halloween-themed issue, the "Frightleaf".

I am immensely proud of all that the "Figleaf" team has accomplished in 2020 and eagerly anticipate another fantastic year of student journalism in 2021!

**Ms Rebecca Lake**

**HHHS "Figleaf" Coordinator**



# STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

**T**he 2020 student leadership team met with unprecedented challenges for people so young and they did so with great commitment, kindness and respect.

Early in the year, the SRC attended the Youth Summit hosted by the Hunters Hill Council. The aim of the event was to connect, collaborate and create project ideas with environmental and community benefits which could be implemented in partnership with Hunter's Hill Council. The students continued to work with the council and with local connections to get their ideas off the ground. These impressive ideas included an app that addresses youth mental health and the introduction of LED lighting into the school.

We were also successful in the application for a grant under the Communities Environment Program. The result of this was access to \$8000 to fund new waste receptacles for recycling.

An annual event that has become popular over the last few years has been the World's Greatest Shave. This year, Alexander Strassberg and Xavier Cavanagh Downes both cut off their luscious locks in order to raise funds, raising just shy of \$1000!

As the year moved on, we got connected with the P&C to learn more about the sustainable uniforms; a proposal for a new and improved bike rack; and getting involved with the organisation of the annual Colour Run.

Although student connection has always been a fundamental motivation for the SRC, online learning and lockdown created a context that demanded we find new ways in which to strengthen peer relationships. The team met weekly and combined efforts with the student news organisation, the "Figleaf". Under the direction of Year 9 student Aidan Petersen, the team presented the pilot of a podcast, organised digital Kindness Cards through Instagram and prepared a #teachersrock gratitude video.





In addition to this, the SRC hosted board games and kindness commitments for RUOK? Day and Christmas in July; organised an anti-racism poster design competition; facilitated a whole-school Stand Against Racism Mural; and delivered apples and a Teacher Tree for World Teacher Day.

Each year, the young people at our school impress us with their kindness and

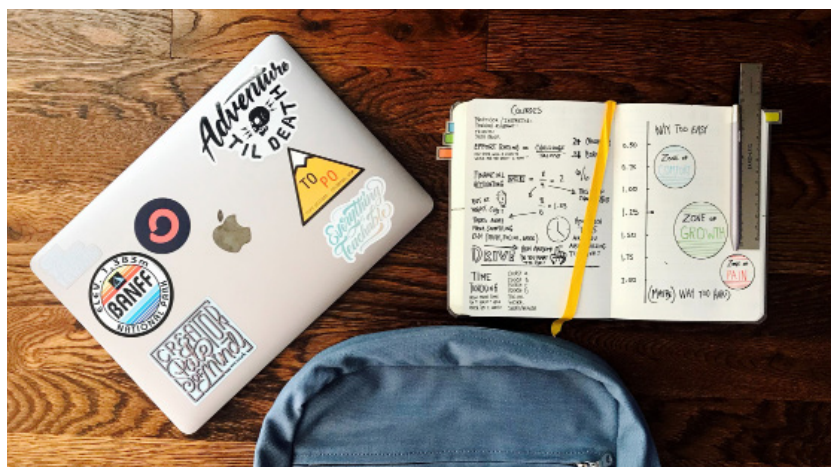
intuition, and we would like to formally acknowledge the services of school leaders Isabella Parry, Shafayet Chowdhury, Poppy Burton and Brayden Duguid in the modelling of these traits with authenticity.

**Ms Jess Austin**

**Student Representative Council  
Coordinator**



# CAREERS



**I**t was a busy year in Careers in 2020. There were some clear disruptions to our Year 12 students, but they handled the changing conditions with confidence and ease.

We saw a record number of students receiving early entry opportunities for university with over 40 students receiving offers. This made students' goal setting clearer, and ensured they had a focus for their future beyond 2020. It was a wonderful way to recognise their efforts in leadership, academia and extracurricular areas throughout their high school careers.

Year 12 students were interviewed in order to assist and educate in the planning of their transition into continued study or the workplace. Additionally, during Careers classes, each Year 10 student was guided with their selections for subjects heading into Years 11 and 12. This was a highly valuable way to ensure students were working towards a path that will benefit them in the future.

We have provided students from Years

9 to 12 the opportunity to study at TAFE in conjunction with their regular study at school. This has allowed students to experience learning in areas outside the normal school curriculum. Years 11 and 12 students were able to complete one of their HSC subjects in a vocational area of interest on Tuesday afternoons while Year 9 and 10 were able to enrol on specific vocational projects as a part of the YES program that is run through TAFE. This has allowed students to learn a range of skills and responsibilities for one day a week throughout a term.

It has been a busy, complicated and exciting year for Careers in 2020. Now more than ever, students are encouraged to seek guidance and support in navigating our ever-changing environment. We look forward to another innovative and constructive year in 2021, with more even more opportunities available to students as the world opens back up.

**Mr David Bastian and Ms Nikki Polak**

**Careers Advisors**

# LEARNING & SUPPORT

2020 was a challenge for the Learning and Support Team here at Hunters Hill High School, as it was across all schools. Our role evolved to respond to the increased diversity of learning needs derived from the need to move to remote learning.

With the introduction of the Wellbeing Coordinator in 2018, the Learning and Support Team has aimed to align the support resources to strengthen and complement one another.

Under the guidance of the Head Teacher Teaching, the Learning and Support Teachers, SLSOs (School Learning Support Officers) and Careers Advisors coordinated to address the additional challenges to our students' learning in an effective and personalised way.

In 2020, the team:

- Reviewed and refined processes around the application for Disability Provisions for students in Stage 4 and 5.
- Reviewed our policies to ensure we were responsive to the Inclusive Education Statement for Students with Disability.
- Established online learning platforms for students with integration funding and other students identified as requiring additional support during online learning, including Zoom sessions and Google Classrooms.
- Transitioned students into online learning with direct connections and

consultations with families.

- Ensured equity of access to learning through provision of technology and resources to families during lockdown.
- Successfully applied for Integration Funding and specialised settings.
- Developed tailored schedules for students during lockdown/
- Provided additional one-to-one support through scheduled class withdrawal for students where appropriate.
- Collaborated with faculties on programs, assessments and exams.
- Facilitated additional support programs when face to face teaching was permitted (Senior Study Group, Beyond the Bell, Eat Your Words and The Living Room).
- Established a targeted and regular study sessions for Year 9 after identifying this particular area of need, which was also identified by CESE.

**Ms Carly Jelfs**

**Relieving Head Teacher Learning & Support**





# WELLBEING



**T**his was certainly a challenging year in more ways than one. Our learning community had to demonstrate resilience and flexibility as our daily lives changed more frequently than we care to remember. Despite these challenges, our students continued to demonstrate positive values and a commitment to their learning. Wellbeing initiatives for 2020 included:

## **UMATTER**

UMatter aims to develop Collaboration, Creativity, Communication and Critical Thinking skills; all necessary for success in the 21st Century. We continued to strengthen our UMatter Wellbeing program in 2020. Students rotated through UMatter sessions and Year Meetings where they participated in activities aimed at destigmatising mental health, strengthening their capacity to cope

with diverse challenges, resolve issues respectfully and developing a stronger learning community. The lessons were practical, tangible and accompanied by an opportunity to reflect on their learning. By encouraging our students to be reflective and accountable, we are developing a school-wide culture of tolerance, kindness and empathy.

Our students are expected to contribute to their own wellbeing, the wellbeing of their peers and the collective wellbeing of their communities. In this way our school, in partnership with parents and carers, will equip our students to be active and positive contributors to their society.

## **PEER SUPPORT**

During UMatter sessions, Year 11 Peer Support Mentors facilitated discussions with their Year 7 peers. Developing these

strong connections, and using Year 11 as positive role models, was incredibly rewarding for all involved.

### **BACKFLIPS AGAINST BULLYING**

Students from Years 7 and 8 attended a performance from Backflips Against Bullying, a troupe who utilised incredible acrobatic and parkour skills to highlight important issues such as peer harassment and its consequences in the real world. The performance troupe expanded upon topics such as Cyberbullying, Resilience & Power Dynamics, Harassment vs Assault, Real World Consequences, and Targeted/ Repeated Harassment.

Despite the heavy themes, the show was presented as a hilarious, fun and interactive experience. It featured awe-inspiring tricks and flips amongst interactive acrobatic scenes that depict the different examples of peer harassment. They provided exit strategies for victims of harassment and empowered bystanders to take action against victimisation.

### **POLICE LIAISON VISIT**

We hosted our local Police Liaison Officer to present to Years 8 and 9 regarding cyber safety. The focus of the presentation was to promote behavioural change in regards to technology use. Top tips included:

- Be cautious about accepting friend or follower requests on social media.
- Never agree to meet someone you have met online alone.
- Learn how to block and report. The e-safety commission website has some great resources.

- Know how to get help on the social media websites and apps you use
- Ensure security at all times. Check that all profiles and accounts are set to private and that the camera on your phone isn't automatically turned on when using certain apps

### **RUOK DAY**

To recognise RUOK Day, and to continue having open discussions about mental health, our students wore a touch of yellow. We also encouraged our students to follow the steps to start an RUOK conversation:

1. Ask R U OK?
2. Listen
3. Encourage action
4. Check in

### **WORLD TEACHER DAY**

World Teachers' Day was celebrated on Friday 30 October. This year, despite major challenges, teachers have made sure education continues across the country. It's reinforced the significant role they play in the lives of children and students, their families and communities. Students, parents and their families sent in messages appreciation to individual teachers, faculties or school leaders at Hunters Hill High School.

We have been proud of the way our school has responded to all this year's challenges and look forward to a productive 2021.

**Ms Edwina Patten**

**Wellbeing Coordinator**



Y E A R  
R E P O





G R O U P  
P O R T S

# YEAR 7



**O**n Tuesday 28th January 2020, Hunters Hill High School welcomed 147 new Year 7 members to our school community. They were excited, eager, nervous and curious to see what their new home-away-from-home had to offer.

On their first day, the students met their Year Advisor Mrs Pena, who was just as eager and excited to meet all their new faces and start on a strong foot with this new Year Group. Our acronym for our classes is ACTIVE, which we hope set the tone for all the new opportunities we have as active learners and members of our school community. We had a one-

day crash course orientation and moved swiftly into a routine of high school life. At the end of Orientation Day, Year 7 and their Peer Support Leaders were given the responsibility to read their timetables and get familiar with their classes, teachers and the school. They did exceptionally well and exceeded my expectations.

Year 7 adapted quickly to the new environment and the high expectations of behaviour and classroom participation. They encountered a new learning environment, new schedule, new teachers, new peer groups, other cohorts, new emotions, old emotions and a general feeling of the unknown. It was quite



daunting. Despite this, Year 7 took hold of the reigns and powered through their first few weeks of high school with their backs against the wall, striding forward each day.

But the world had other plans! Due to the pandemic, Year 7 had to endure more changes than most. They moved from their new school to remote learning, bringing new and unique challenges. I am so proud of how Year 7 adapted. We had weekly meetings on Zoom and made sure everyone was feeling okay; some students would dress in costume, others hula hooped and we met each others' pets!

While it was not easy, Year 7 has done a wonderful job at building resilience and strengthening their community in a difficult time. While it may not have been an ideal setting to start a new school, it taught us a lot! Some of us improved in our study skills, while others learned how to work independently and establish a routine while working at home. We began to understand the importance of self-care as individuals and a community.

Some of the highlights of the year include students joining the Debating team; students engaging in English

presentations; and students doing their part to raise funds for Legacy Day. Year 7 also loved getting involved in Crazy Sock Day to raise awareness for mental health. We didn't get to participate in school carnivals in the traditional sense, but the school made sure we still got to show our strengths in sport through an adjusted Swimming Carnival and completing the Athletics Carnival through our PE classes. We are so grateful for the skills we have developed during this time and the great memories we have built together, but we are so ready for what Year 8 will bring!

I would like to congratulate Year 7 on the completion of their first year of high school. For many of them it has been one of the most significant transitions in their young lives. I am excited to see what the future holds for these amazing young individuals and I am proud to be a part of their journey. Bring on 2020, let's GO!!

**Mrs Sonia Pena**

**Year 7 Advisor**



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# YEAR 8



**T**his year will forever be remembered as “the challenge”, but what will also be remembered is how the students of Hunters Hill High School accepted that challenge and took the bull by the horns. I cannot express how happy and grateful I am of the students in Year 8. You have done your families and yourselves proud in your handling of 2020. You chose to rise above it all and demonstrate the character needed to keep pushing forward even when it seemed the world was literally crumbling down upon us. We will look back in four years from now with smiles on our faces, knowing that 2020 is the year that tried to beat us but had couldn't stand a chance.

Congratulations to every student who has achieved academic, sporting and extra curricular honours. Congratulations to every student who got through the

remote learning phase. Congratulations to every student who said "yes" to new opportunities and congratulations to every student who just turned up each day to school for themselves and one another.

Year 8, you have filled me with a sense of optimism and joy at a future led by our younger generation and I know we are in safe hands. Please do me one favour when you read this; go and give your parents/ caregivers/family the biggest hug and just say "thank you". Without their love and support, times like these are very dull.

I look forward to the next chapter of our journey together in Year 9. Stay blessed and never stressed, just like Chris Davis in the picture on the left.

**Mr Daniel Habbouchi**

**Year 8 Advisor**

# YEAR 9



**2** 020 was truly a year to remember! I am immensely proud at the way our Year 9 cohort have navigated this extraordinary and challenging time. We have built resilience and have learned a lot about ourselves and the power of being part of a community.

Our year started with practicing active kindness. Year 9 students in the Kindness Crew collected positive messages from students to their friends which were then made into cards and delivered to the recipients on Valentine's Day. This exercise encouraged us to communicate the often unspoken strengths and attributes that we see in each other and created gratitude for those in our everyday life.

Early Term One also saw us congratulate

our newly elected Year 9 Student Council Representatives Keira Bailey, Hannah Contino, Brandyn Gaskill and Nelson Lanfear. Thank you for being our "united" voice during this unprecedented year.

Year 9 attended Backflips Against Bullying, which encouraged resilience and explored the negative impacts of issues such as cyberbullying. We were lucky enough to spend a day outside the classroom at Macquarie University Aquatic Centre for our Swimming Carnival. In March, we attended a whole day Creating Chances incursion with Mr Neild and Mrs Pena. The day included practical activities and group discussions to inspire creativity and encouragement for students to believe in themselves so they can contribute positively to society.





During remote learning, Year 9 maintained a strong connection through weekly Zoom meetings where we shared our favourite songs, bands and photos of our beloved pets on the UNITED Google Classroom. We shared positive learning habits, motivated students to maintain self-care, to access support through eheadspace online and provided wellbeing organisation contacts for adolescents to access.

Transitioning back to face-to-face learning saw Year 9 U\_Matter groups reflect on our unique shared experience and redefined our personal and academic goals. Despite the restrictions, we are grateful for the events that are still able to run here at

school. The Raise Mentoring Program visits weekly and matches Year 9 student mentees with mentors who want to give back and contribute to their community. In late Term 3, our wonderful Police School Liaison Officer Lynda Hart delivered a valuable workshop about digital responsibility. Assistant Year Advisor Ms Austin and I also enjoyed creating mess and chaos with our United cohort at the Colour Run in November.

We look forward making more special memories in 2021.

**Ms Jessica De Santis**

**Year 9 Advisor**



# YEAR 10





2020 will undoubtedly be immortalised as one of the most challenging in history. However, through all the hardships they have faced, Year 10 have maintained their fighting spirits and have emerged stronger and more resilient than ever. This was abundantly clear both in the context of remote learning, and when students returned to the classroom, ready to re-engage in face-to-face learning.

Although COVID prevented Year 10 from being able to enjoy their usual excursions and interactions outside of Hunters Hill High School throughout 2020, they have actively engaged in a wide range of activities inside the school grounds, where they acquitted themselves admirably. These include the Year 10 Learning Conference; Debating; sports; and nominating

themselves to take on the rewarding role of Peer Support Leaders. Through participating in these activities, Year 10 developed their ability to think critically, while also building their empathy; two vital qualities for success in Stage 6 and beyond.

In 2020, Year 10 also farwelled their long-standing Year Advisor, Ms Maria Lenard. I want to thank Ms Lenard for her unfailing dedication to this year group, and her commitment both to students academic success and to their wellbeing.

Year 10, I am proud of you all, and look forward to sharing a productive year with you in 2021.

**Mr Adam Skinner**

**Year 10 Advisor**



# YEAR 11



2020 was a difficult year on many fronts but we worked to overcome the challenges it threw at us. As I write this, the sun is shining after days of rain, which is a beautiful representation of 2020.

Year 11 thanked Mr Cartwright for his time as Year Advisor during 2018-2019, as he took on an external role at TAFE NSW, and welcomed Ms Brierty back as Year Advisor. They also welcomed Mrs Donovan as the new Deputy Principal for the year; she has been a driving force in challenging the students to strive for success.

A report on 2020 would not be complete without mentioning the period of remote learning. This was a difficult time for all.

Some students relished the opportunity to control the time and pace of their learning, while others struggled to maintain connections and motivation during lockdown. There was an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the school environment and learning opportunities once the school opened again. Students returned with dedication and a renewed focus to their learning.

One of the highlights of the year was definitely receiving the Year 12 school jerseys. They arrived at the start of Term 4, coinciding with the beginning of their HSC learning, and they looked very smart.

Like many of our processes this year, the nominations and voting for school captain

2021 went online. The nominees had two minutes to express their leadership qualities and record of service, which was filmed and played to Year 10 and 11 classes. All nominees rose to the occasion, delivering professional and impassioned speeches. The votes were cast and the successful candidates were Naya Cook, Zachary Clifton, Samuel Jones and Grace Odgers. They are a strong leadership team, and I look forward to working with throughout their final year of high school.

Harry Irhamni took part in the NSW Schools Constitutional Convention, which usually involves a trip to NSW Parliament House, but this year he visited the HHHS Library and participated via a live feed from Parliament house. Harry loved this experience, where he heard keynote speaker Professor Anne Twomey, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Sydney Law School, discuss Federalism and the Division of Powers; the role of the Commonwealth and the States in dealing with national emergencies. The professor spoke with detail and empathy, using current examples, such as the summer bushfires, which made the convention interesting and relevant for Harry.

Under the supervision of Ms Karac, Year 11 TAS students worked collaboratively with the Year 11 Hospitality students, serving up a delicious lunch to the staff. With guidance and instruction from Mr Pickles, Year 11 Construction students successfully laid two concrete pads, 3 metres x 3 metres, for the P&C-funded shaded seating. There are now three new shaded seats on the oval, just in time for the warmer weather.

This year, we have spent a lot of time reflecting on the year that was, on the

obstacles that we faced and how we worked together in order to succeed. Students were asked to reflect on their achievements throughout the year, and these ranged from academic grades, physical projects such as the Design and Technology light design projects, being Peer Support leaders extending their work with Mr Neild and the 2019 Stand Up program, and keeping on top of their school work amid all the obstacles.

Students were also asked to identify three things that they have learnt this year. The results were varied, and interesting, including:

- People will always bounce back and adapt when catastrophic events occur.
- I learned that you need to set time for each subject when studying, I've also learnt that you need to reach out to people when you are feeling overwhelmed, and school doesn't need to be as hard as you make it.
- How to properly write an essay.
- I learned that I shouldn't freak out about Year 12 as long as I remain organised.
- I leaned more social skills

In lieu of a year group photo, I snapped the students during their weekly U Matter wellbeing sessions where they were engaged in an important discussion on the value of respect and school pride.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2021.

**Ms Julia Brierty**

**Year 11 Advisor**

# YEAR 12



**T**he HSC Class of 2020 had a year like no other. Despite the nervousness of teachers and the senior Executive, the overall outlook of the group was that this is the only HSC we've ever experienced and we will be okay.

From early October of 2019, the Class of 2020 looked anxiously forward to the challenge of the Higher School Certificate, major works and assessment tasks that create the foundation of their high school achievement.

2020 kicked off with the usual high

participation and attendance at the Major Works Exhibition. The Class of 2020 contributed with a bunch of singers including Basma Dakroub and Stephanie Liu leading Cameron Barra Corros, Yoosuf Ibriham, Daniel Penuela Delinavelli and Poppy Burton, with cameos by Emma Stowers and Lola Bitti, which contributed to a great night.

The ability of the artists in the year group shone brightly throughout the year and many were recognised for their achievements. Erin Norris was nominated for her major art work in Art Express, the annual exhibition at the NSW Art Gallery



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showcasing the best of the best of HSC art. Jonathon Niccola was nominated for the equivalent event in Drama, the OnStage 2021 series of performances at the Belvoir Theatre. Also, Sam Galati picked up First Place in the Hunters Hill Art Prize, while Georgia Curnow was the runner up at the same event.

Without many of the usual rites of passage, we'll look back on the Noon Zoom Room as a unique lockdown get together. Sometimes it was weird, sometimes it was awkward, but it was always nice to have the opportunity to see each other during the challenging remote learning period.

The Trial Exams came and went, and the results suggested that as a group, the HSC could be conquered.

The final days at Hunters Hill High School included the Farewell Festival. There was lots of dressing up, being silly and savouring the final moments of school. Natalia Benc and Poppy Burton captured the spirit, as they always do.

After the tension and tribulations of the HSC exams, the final two events on the school calendar could be enjoyed in a far more leisurely manner. The first ever Hunters Hill High School Graduation on the Green allowed students and families to



enjoy the milestone together. Everybody had their moment on stage to celebrate their achievement.

Another precedent-setting event was the first Year 12 Formal in the Hall. Without the COVID restrictions placed on external venues, students and teachers were able to enjoy a meal together and turn a hall into a dance club. It was a wonderful evening and it created some great memories as the packed dance floor kept enjoying the celebrations. Pictured are Boyd, Josh, Alex, Yasin, Charles and Ethan dressed for the Formal and ready to party.

The Class of 2020 has enjoyed a fantastic journey through Hunters Hill High School. This reflects the strengths of friendships that have been created, the respect for our differences and the unity of purpose that allowed students to thrive and achieve across all the opportunities on offer.

The future is perhaps uncertain, and certainly challenging, however, the Hunters Hill High School experience has students well prepared for whatever the future holds.

**Mr Warwick McAlpine**

**Year 12 Advisor (2017-2020)**





