



Hunters Hill
High School

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The Figtree

THE JOURNAL OF HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Term 3, 2020



Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – First Gold Awards for HHS

Congratulations to Year 12 students Poppy Burton (Vice Captain), Xavier Cavanagh-Downs, Charles Crompton, Hugo Gentle, Alex Manefield and Josh Nowiczewski our first ever recipients of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Special mention to Mr Warwick McAlpine who runs the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award at HHS and our sincere thanks to parent Ms Mishele Cavanagh-Downs (not pictured) for her ongoing support of our school as an accredited supervisor of the Gold Award.

Principals Report

The testing times that have existed for the last six months or so seems to be a constant state of flux. Successes being balanced by setbacks. Still it is at times like these you can really appreciate the strength of our community at this school. My ongoing thanks to the vast majority of our parents who have been supportive and understanding throughout the changing educational landscape in 2020. The reality is that schools and society both are unlikely to return to what they were.

A big thank you to the P&C under the inspiring leadership of Jacqueline Crompton. She has picked up where Martin Brown left off and continued the sterling fundraising efforts that have allowed the P&C to provide \$170, 000 to support school projects. We now have easily the best resourced technology hub on the north side with industrial quality equipment for students to use and become familiar with. Moreover, the reconstruction of the gym is underway. It will soon be a lot more user friendly and with greater variety.

An especially big thank you too, to Warwick McAlpine and the other staff who have involved themselves in the Duke of Edinburgh program. It hasn't been without its trials and tribulations, but then most things worth having require effort. There is a nice article coming in the Figleaf Student Newsletter that will highlight the efforts of the current group of gold medallion achievers that are the first ever in the history of the school. They have set a great example and we look forward to further cohorts of students being involved in this worthwhile endeavour.

With the current restrictions we cannot have a Year 12 Graduation as we normally would so we have postponed it until immediately after the HSC. Hopefully, by then, we'll be able to have parents on site. Similarly, Mr McAlpine and Ms Chiew-Meldrum are looking to provide suitable ways for Year 12 to be able to mark the end of high school.

As some parents would be aware there is a uniform review under way. Community, student and staff representatives are looking at a range of options at the moment. It is important however that all our parents and students get the opportunity to comment on the possible changes and have some input. To this end, a survey will be sent out to our community. I urge you to take the opportunity to make a thoughtful response when this arrives. Mrs Donovan, Deputy Principal, is co-ordinating this review.

As you may have read in the media there is a new school planning process underway. The school is proceeding with its planning for 2021 to 2024 school plan and will consult with the community through the P&C forum during Term 4. At the moment the P&C is limited to meetings via Google Meet. Not ideal, but this type of meeting has become the new normal it seems.

Stay safe.

Greg Lill

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 7 September – P&C Meeting via Google Meet

Thursday 10 September – Friday 18 September – Year 11 Exams

Friday 25 September – Last Day Term 3

Monday 12 October – All Students and Staff Return for Term 4

Tuesday 20 October – Wednesday 11 November - HSC Examinations

Monday 26 October - P&C Meeting via Google Meet

P&C Report

If I have a theme for this term's Figtree, it is *partnership*: because the depth of partnership and collaboration between the P&C, the school leadership, teachers and students has resulted in some very exciting outcomes this term.

\$170,000 Funding Committed for Projects

The P&C has committed \$170,000 to amazing projects proposed by both teachers and students that will be of fantastic benefit to our children. This includes:

- \$77,740 for a second laser cutter and a CNC milling machine;
- \$55,000 for a complete refit of the fitness centre;
- \$22,500 for Stage One of a lighting upgrade to the hall & theatre;
- \$8,000 for the installation of new bike racks accommodating 40 bikes; and,
- \$5,400 for the purchase of a new digital piano and amp.

It is worth highlighting that the addition of the laser cutter and CNC milling machine will make our TAS department the most technologically advanced public high school in Northern Sydney. The overhaul of the fitness centre will also make HHHS one of the best equipped public high schools for fitness and we expect to see lots of students and staff accessing the centre both in and out of class time. The P&C was also very impressed by the thoughtful pitch made by our student leaders for well-designed and well-positioned bike racks, which our TAS construction students will also have the opportunity to work on.

In partnership, we have raised funds and considered how best to use them. The school community should be proud of its fundraising efforts, and special thanks go to **Suzanne Kimpton, Robyn Butterfield** and **Olejuru Lanfear** for leading those efforts most recently.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – First Gold Awards for HHHS

Another wonderful and perhaps less well-known partnership between the school and parents is the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. **Mr McAlpine** runs the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award (starting in Year 9 in normal circumstances) and this is no small undertaking – it includes many hours of admin and student support, as well as supervising students on two arduous overnight hikes.

Students who achieve their Bronze Award can now continue on to the Gold Award under the accredited supervision of an HHHS parent, **Mishele Cavanagh-Downs**. This is a prestigious accreditation that also enables students to seek early university placement through "leadership and achievement" pathways.

For the first time in the school's history, students from HHHS will graduate with the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, including **Poppy Burton** (Vice Captain), **Xavier Cavanagh-Downs**, **Charles Crompton**, **Hugo Gentle**, **Alex Manefield** and **Josh Nowiczewski**. These six Year 12 students are our inaugural Gold Award recipients after completing the 18-month Gold Award program, and Poppy Burton is the first female student at HHHS to even attempt the Gold Award. Congratulations!

The P&C is very grateful to the school (and to Mr McAlpine in particular) for providing this opportunity, and we are very grateful to Mishele Cavanagh-Downs for enabling students to continue their journey through to the Gold Award. Even though Mishele's family leaves HHHS at the end of this year, she will continue to volunteer on behalf of the P&C as a Gold Award Supervisor for HHHS students.

The P&C will arrange an online meeting early in Term 4 for eligible students interested in undertaking the Gold Award in 2021, where parents and students currently completing their Bronze Award can meet with Mishele and understand both the commitments and advantages of the Gold Award. We look forward to seeing more students achieving this prestigious award, and supporting a culture of achievement at HHHS.

Covid Safety

Finally, it is with heavy hearts that the P&C has suspended band and choir activities again this Term, in line with newly released NSW Covid safety rules. Again, the P&C commits to working in strong partnership with the school to ensure compliance with rules, communication of guidelines and recommendations, and above all, the safety of our students and all the staff who make their education both positive and possible.

Jacqueline Crompton
President, Hunters Hill High School P&C

Wellbeing Report

During Term 3 Staff Development Day, Hunters Hill High School staff participated in a wellbeing session with our local Headspace branch. Throughout the session we were provided with some healthy reminders about self-care strategies and how to develop a self-care plan. These strategies are not only important to staff wellbeing, but are essential when enabling staff to model similar strategies to our students. By demonstrating to students how we can be resilient, we hope to empower our young people with the same skills of tolerance, perseverance and grit.

UMatter Sessions: Our students continue to develop their interpersonal and intrapersonal skills in problem solving, resilience and self-awareness through regular UMatter sessions. This term we have also taken time to reflect on the Semester 1 reports and identify potential areas of improvement. Our UMatter groups are also becoming quite competitive as they aim to solve the UMatter riddle each Year Meeting!

Tell Them From Me: This term our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The Wellbeing Hub: The Hunters Hill High School Wellbeing Hub is an online platform which allows students, parents and carers to access wellbeing resources, quick links, fun facts and mindful activities, whether they are at school or at home.

This is also where you will find information regarding Subject Selections, including Subject Selection Books, for students in Year 8 into Year 9 the following year and Year 10 into Year 11 the following year.

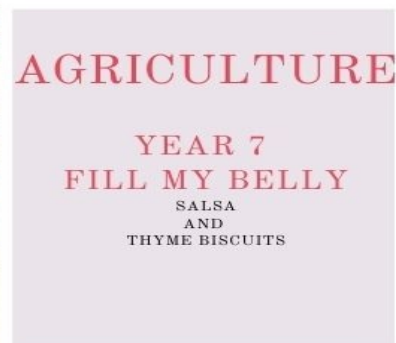
The Wellbeing Hub continues to evolve to support the needs of our students and school community. The link is below:

<https://huntershd-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/supporting-our-students/wellbeing-hub.html>

We are all looking forward to a wonderfully productive term!

Ms Patten
Wellbeing Coordinator

Year 7 Agriculture using ingredients from the school garden plot. Salsa and Thyme Biscuits! Students are Thomas C, Thomas B, Cara P, Maddy R and Jessica T



Creating Chances

These difficult times have not put a damper on our successes in the Creating Chances Girls group! Due to the COVID shutdown, our contact with our external coaches has been somewhat limited at the beginning of the program. We used Google Classroom to keep in contact and share content to support each other, and gathered in small year groups to talk about what was happening in our lives.

On our return to school, we had the opportunity to meet our coaches, Paul and Afaf. We quickly built strong relationships as a group across grades, and began to share about some of our struggles at school. We realised, that a lot of us struggle with the same things. Focus in class, relationships with friends and teachers; self-awareness, and dealing with conflict.

Our sessions have given us time and space to develop our sense of self; awareness of responsibility in relationships, and better management strategies when in conflict.

These lessons have been put into practice in real life, and we have come back to school more successful than ever. Almost perfect uniform, improving attendance, better performance in the classroom, and more peaceful friendships and relationships.

While we are unsure as to where the program is going to go in this global environment, we are sure that the lessons that our young women have learnt are for a lifetime.

Sonia Hutchinson Pena
Creating Chances Coordinator

GRAND OPENING OF THE GROUND UP CAFE

On Tuesday 25th August the student-led cafe will be open to the students and staff at Hunters Hill High School.

The cafe operates from outside of the Phil Daniels Pavilion from 8:30am - 9:15am.

We had a very successful VIP opening last Tuesday! The reviews are all 5 STARS!

Yummy hot drinks are available for the cheapest prices around.

Please note: We follow COVID safe procedures



Ready, Set, Sail!

Sometimes it's good to be scared. Sometimes it's valuable to be uncertain or apprehensive, excited or nervous. On Thursday mornings, when the students involved in the Ready, Set, Sail! resilience program wake up, sometimes they feel these emotions. Perhaps for the only time that week.

Sailing is hard; it is also exhilarating, joyful and occasionally scary. Similarly being great at high school is hard, and at its best, is also exhilarating, joyful and occasionally scary. It is this similarity, and the precious scarcity of big visceral emotions like fear, excitement, desperation which the Ready, Set, Sail! program is built on.

Stimulated by the energetic and eccentric thinking of our Principal Greg Lill, and the passionate encouragement of the Hunters Hill High School Sailing Club President Chris Stannage, in 2020 we launched the sailing and resilience program. Every Thursday morning twelve students from Years 9 and 10 join Mr Neild on the Sydney Harbour learning to sail RS Quest sailing boats. Often they fly, occasionally they flounder, and every now and then they make a mistake and find themselves clambering around an upturned boat with salt water in their face. I can personally attest to the confronting nature of this experience.

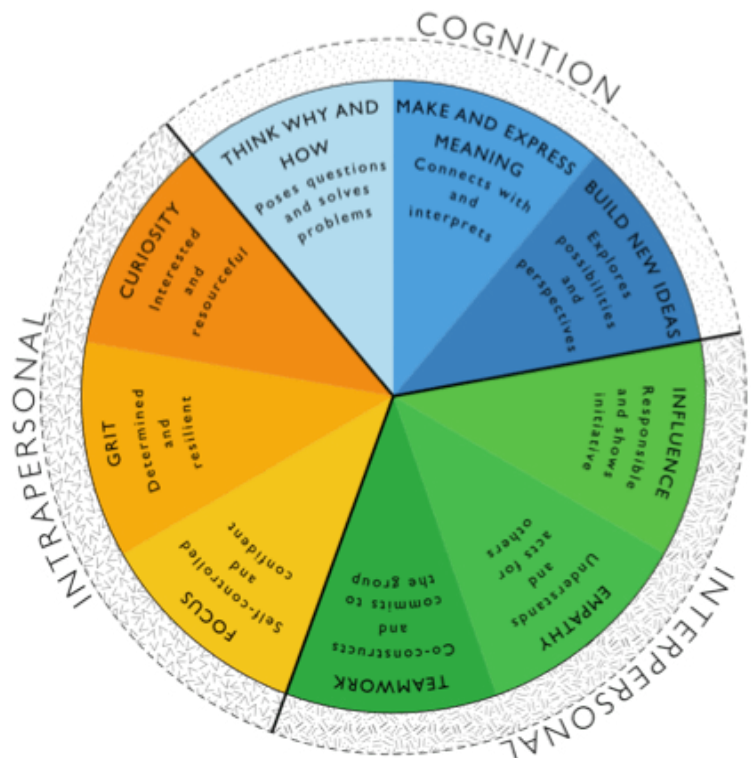
The truth that we are chasing out there at the end of a sheet, under the flapping of a sail, is that the only way to achieve success, as a sailor, student or family member is to make enough of the right mistakes.

Following an hour or two of sailing we spend time in the clubhouse writing and sharing our thoughts on that truth. Using the nine key concepts found in the 4C's Pedagogy Learning Disposition Wheel, we reflect on our necessary mistakes, sensational triumphs and attempt to extrapolate the whole process to our efforts as students, athletes and members of the community.

We have much to be proud of and grateful for at Hunters Hill High School this year. Certainly the new Ready, Set, Sail! resilience program should be one. I hope as you read this there is something in your world that is a little bit frightening, and maybe even there are a few important mistakes for you to go and learn from.

Mike Neild
Ready, Set, Sail! Coordinator

The 4Cs Pedagogy Learning Disposition Wheel: Focus, Grit, Curiosity, Think why and how, Make and express meaning, Build new ideas, Influence, Empathy, Teamwork.





The new HHHS BUS has arrived!

We are very excited to announce that our new 21 seater school bus has also arrived. The school bus will be used (hopefully in the not too distant future) for school excursions, SRC, sporting, music and dance events and Ready, Set, Sail! just to name a few!

Mr Lill and Mrs Donovan were the first to board the bus and we can't wait to welcome students and staff on board for many great school events very soon!



Our new SAILING BOATS have arrived!

We are also very excited to announce that HHHS has added 2 new sailing boats to our fleet, bringing our total number of boats to 4.

Even though sailing is very new at HHHS, it is fast becoming very popular. We hope that with the addition of 2 new boats, more of our students will have the opportunity to get involved with our excellent Sailing Programs!



Technology and Applied Studies

NEW SCHOOL RECORD



Dilan Bate and Jason Lynn have set a new school record of 72.5 meter launch with their bottle rocket

11CON1 students are setting up the concrete framework for the new outdoor shaded seating.

Our thanks to all students and staff involved and to the P&C who applied for, and were successful in getting, a Grant for the seating.

We can't wait to see the finished product!



SKILLED FOR SUCCESS

JOB

CAREER

WORK

OPPORTUNITY

Can you help HHHS?

We are looking for businesses that have an interest in accepting students to experience their industry with a focus on developing student's skills and knowledge.

Our students are enthusiastic, professional and keen to learn. We are hoping to find businesses related to, but not limited to, the following professions.

Types of Businesses:

- ◆ Carpentry
- ◆ Electrician
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Mechanic
- ◆ Plumbing
- ◆ Hairdressing
- ◆ Childcare
- ◆ Retail

If anyone has availability, or to discuss further, please contact the Careers Advisor at Hunters Hill High School on 9817 4565 or email:

huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

"We are hoping to build some strong partnerships with local businesses in our area"

- David Bastian

Careers Advisor



JOB, CAREER, WORK, OPPORTUNITY

Uniform Shop Changes

Effective immediately, the Uniform Shop will open on a **TUESDAY ONLY** until further notice from 8.30am - 11.30am by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. The BOOKING SYSTEM remains in place for students and / or parents to ensure operations are consistent with social distancing requirements. Only one family will be permitted in the shop at any given time. Students must also make an appointment and should only attend the Uniform Shop outside of class times.

Please click on this link to **Make a Booking**:

<https://www.sustainableschoolwear.com/collections/hunters-hill-high-school/products/hhhs-uniform-shop-booking>

Online Sales: Orders can still be made online for **STUDENT PICK UP ONLY**. Please note, the Uniform Shop no longer delivers online orders. Please click on the following link to place an online order:

<https://www.sustainableschoolwear.com/collections/hunters-hill-high-school>

Parent Portal Access

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have set up their Parent Portal. If you are yet to do so, please email the school office at huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au to request access, including your unique Access Key.

Please note the Parent Portal is where parents and carers have access to student reports and where online bookings are made for Parent / Teacher Interviews when they are scheduled.

HHHS WEBSITE

The HHHS website is updated regularly! Please take the time to go to our site for updates, important information about our school, photos, videos, upcoming events and important dates.

www.huntershd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au



Hunters Hill
High School

HHHS Facebook Closed Groups - Parent and Carer ON-BOARDING Process

Dear Parents and Carers,

HHHS currently utilises Social Media channels, with Facebook at its hub, to create an environment that fosters **interconnectedness**. The closed Facebook pages requires a holistic approach, which means YOUR SUPPORT is required in bettering our current avenues of engagement.

These closed year groups are for you to connect and collaborate with HHHS securely. Our team will keep you up to date on your son/daughters' learning journey at HHHS. You will receive exclusive news, announcements, photos, videos etc. pertaining to your child's cohort. Most importantly, you will have real-time insight into your child's daily school life and culture. This is a convenient and effective communication channel for you and for HHHS, and will be especially easy if you are already on Facebook!

If you have already joined one of our closed groups in previous years, you do not need to do anything. Each year you will continue to see posts about your student/students.

If you have not yet joined the relevant Year Group, please ensure that you follow the below process to sign up digitally. NB: You **MUST** read, and **CONFIRM** you have read, our Social Media Procedure and **CONFIRM** your child's name before you can be formally accepted to the group by HHHS. (See the below link)

We look forward to sharing and talking with you all, and of course, we will continue to communicate via email and the Parent Portal etc. as well as Facebook.

Theresa Aniello
HHHS Online Communications Coordinator

Jo Harris
HHHS Online Communications Coordinator

HHHS Parent On-Boarding Process

1. Please read, and confirm you have read, our HHHS's Social Media Procedure, confirm your child's name and sign up digitally using the following link: <https://bit.ly/2rM4ObC>
2. Log into your Facebook account and search for the relevant Year Group URL **OR** Group Name.
3. Request to "Join Group". You will then be prompted to answer the above two questions. (These questions **MUST** be answered to join the group)
4. All requests will be screened by our staff members who have admin rights. You will be accepted as soon as everything is validated and confirmed.

HHHS Year 7 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear72020/>

HHHS Year 8 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear82020/>

HHHS Year 9 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear92020/>

HHHS Year 10 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear102020/>

HHHS Year 11 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear112020/>

HHHS Year 12 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear122020/>

CONTACT US

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