

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Dear CHHS Community,

2018 has commenced as expected, with an explosion of activity and an influx of new students. It gives me great pleasure to welcome all members of our community. We have had a number of new staff join our team as well as staff return from leave. Each one of our staff members is highly qualified and

respected. Students who understand their purpose and place at school serve to gain the maximum benefit of being nurtured by such superb educators.

### HSC Results

The Class of 2017 may have graduated but we are still celebrating their successes and sharing the joy that our best performing students felt when their results came in. And there is no question that it was the product of a perfect partnership between exceptional teachers and dedicated, hardworking students.

We had two students - Brendan Ta and Austin Cai who achieved ATARs over 98. Brendan was our Dux. Austin was successful in gaining two scholarships and early entry into the University of Sydney. Both these young men have the promise of incredible futures ahead of them - not just because of their ATARs but because of the quality people they both are.

We also had five students achieve ATARs over 95.

Sue Huynh and Run Yuan, who were both international students, were recognised at the DoE International Student Awards for academic excellence. Sue is going to be studying Optometry at the University of New South Wales with another one of our high achieving students, Shahd Al Kalil. Shahd was a refugee who commenced schooling in Australia at our Intensive English Centre three years ago. She achieved a prestigious state rank in Arabic, coming 4th.

Julia Luo achieved a Band 6 in Music. She is already an accomplished musician and was invited to audition for Encore, the HSC showcase of outstanding performers. She has been successful in securing a coveted place at the Conservatorium of Music.

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And then there were the Band 6 results across almost every KLA with spectacular performances in Mathematics Extension 1 and English Extension 1.

Each of our Year 12 students graduated from Chester Hill High School having been provided a wealth of opportunities and those who feel confident are the ones who took advantage of them. In addition to our list of High Achievers of whom the individuals listed above are but a few, we also have all the other successful students who gained full-time employment, apprenticeships and early entry into tertiary study - whether at university or TAFE.

Congratulations to each and every one of you. We wish you every success in your future.

### Parent Presentations and Minimum Standards

We very much enjoyed spending time with the parents who attended our information night presentations on Study Skills and the HSC. We encourage parents to take an active role in supporting student learning, particularly at home.

### Minimum Standards

Part of our discussions with parents in these presentations was information about the minimum standards and how the school was addressing these issues for students who faced them. In what turned out to be an ironic untimely move, the following day, there was much media attention about NAPLAN becoming a diagnostic tool and Minimum Standards being scrapped.

Minimum standards have not been scrapped - the assessment will just feature later. NAPLAN has always been a diagnostic tool for teachers. Our school's initiatives to address remediation to achieve above minimum standards will continue to be enhanced and features in our School's Strategic Plan 2018-2020 that will be released on the school's website at the commencement of Term 2.

All parents are encouraged to make appointments and seek the necessary assistance in order to access timely and relevant resources and intervention for their child's particular needs. I look forward to meeting up with all of you during the course of the year.

**Ms Z Dabaja**

Principal

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And more!



## IEC REPORT

The IEC began 2018 with new enrolments lined up at the door, eagerly awaiting their chance to start school in Australia. We have seen new faces from Syria, Vietnam, Somalia, Afghanistan and Lebanon, to name a few. The playground is a melting pot of cultural diversity. Students quickly got settled into their classes, learning the language and literacy skills essential for accessing the Australian Curriculum.

In Week 2, a study tour group of 15 students from the Chinese city of Harbin arrived at the IEC accompanied by two teachers and a guide. They participated in classroom activities and discovered what it is like to study in an Australian high school context. This study exchange was enriching for the students from China and our students too. It allowed for an exchange of cultural ideas and also developed the communication skills of the students at the IEC.

A number of programs and initiatives aiming to increase student engagement and further develop English language proficiency have been initiated this term. Mr Furey and Mr Mani are organising a joint high school and IEC sports program to develop the skills of our keen sportspeople and strengthen the links between the high school and IEC. Ms Downey has begun work with the art group, creating more masterpieces to be displayed at the IEC. Ms Kim has also organised a new musical literacy program that incorporates singing and ukelele.

In Week 3, the 12 student leaders were announced at the IEC Assembly. They represent the key values of our school, strength in unity and excellence in education. The student leaders for this term are Grace Duong, Mostafa Jaffari, Chenying Lin, Hasan (Amir Ali) Reza, Haseeba Azizi, Minh Chau Dang, Netkwan Phanrat, Harry Dinh, Hoang Bao Han Tran, Nhat Kha Phan, Ali Reza and Bao Nhi Tran.

Finally, the IEC has a very significant event coming up on 16th March - the 40th Anniversary of the opening of Chester Hill Intensive English Centre. Planning and preparations are already underway for this momentous milestone, with special guests, speeches, performances, a commemorative tree planting and a time capsule already in the works. Look out for more information about the event on the school's website and Facebook page.

### Mr Ocampo

Relieving Head Teacher IEC



## NEW WATER STATION - A BETTER WAY TO STAY HYDRATED

Every year, Australians spend over \$500,000,000 on bottled water. That's 582,000,000 litre bottles being sold - most of which end up in landfill, oceans and waterways. As you can imagine, this does a great deal of harm to the planet.

Cheso has taken the initiative to respond to this issue by investing in a new water fountain and bottle refill station. It is hoped that the new station will help reduce student consumption of single use plastic bottles and encourage students to stay hydrated. The new station features three drinking spouts as well as three water bottle refill nozzles, with the added appeal that the water is chilled. There has been a noticeable increase in drinking water consumption this term with students taking chilled water to class. Not only does this keep them healthy, but it helps to improve concentration in the classroom.

The SRC worked hard throughout 2017 to contribute to the significant cost of the new water station by organising a number of fundraising events. We would like to thank all students who showed their support by purchasing items from the SRC stalls because you helped to make our school a better place to be.

There are some great insulated bottles available in stores that help keep the water chilled for longer. So, remember to bring a reusable water bottle to school every day so you can enjoy a refreshing drink any time.

### Nabiha Rafi

SRC Student





## THE ASPIRE ECLIPSE

With all the great activities that Chester Hill High has participated in this year, it is with great sadness that the ASPIRE program come to an end for 2017. It has been an absolute inspiration being a part of ASPIRE this year.

ASPIRE is coordinated, researched, designed and facilitated by a team of energetic, passionate and enthusiastic professionals from the University of New South Wales.

ASPIRE has offered our school endless opportunities to participate in workshops at school and university campus. The programs offered structured enrichment programs targeted at whole year groups. ASPIRE is run by the University of New South Wales who have targeted Chester Hill High School as a Community Hub school to develop students' aspirations and investigate what makes successful learners. The programs offered have targeted students from Year 7-12. They have been offered workshops specifically designed for each year group and have focused on building students' social and educational well-being, in order to ascertain supportive networks within our 21st century learners and empower them to become critical thinkers.

The programs offered this year included Year 8 Taster Day, Year 10 Design Thinking Workshop, Year 10 'Connect', Year 7-10 In school workshops, Year 9 the On-Tack mentoring program, Year 11 U@UNSW, Year 11-12 EAS and Scholarship Preparation workshop and last but not least a Year 7 Sydney Observatory Visit on 5 December 2017.

On Tuesday 5 December, 30 lucky Year 7 ASPIRE students were selected to participate in, and celebrate the end of, a fantastic and enriching year with a trip to Sydney Observatory. If you haven't taken yourself up the hill...don't hold back! Get your comfy joggers on and take the hike up to the Observatory - it's only about 121 steps! Students were also captivated by the digital planetarium showing an astronomy film. Who would have predicted that in 2017 our amazed and job-smashed

students were able to see, that on this date >> 13/07/2028 at precisely >> 02:19:39 AM, a complete solar eclipse will take place?

The students were fascinated by Chris and Allen, the scientists who took us on a journey into the galaxies and for 15 minutes we were Back to the Future. Well it didn't look exactly like Doc Brown's time machine! More walking up stairs, almost reaching for the sky ... we finally met the connection between civilization and the unknown...the oldest working telescope in Australia, the Equatorial Refracting Telescope, built in 1874. Students glanced through a number of telescopes and used iPads to locate a solar and lunar eclipse.

The impact on students was inspiring,. Students walked away with an extensive knowledge about solar and lunar eclipses, minor planets, and the importance of preserving and sustaining our beautiful planet Earth for generations to come.

**Ms El Samman**

Transition Advisor



Work is well underway on the new Admin building



## SKY HIGH:WRAP UP

On Wednesday, 6 December 2017, ten students in Year 8 had the rare privilege of experiencing amazing things as part of SKY HIGH - a program of events and experiences designed by UTS, facilitated by the dynamic and immensely enthusiastic Dr Nicola Sinclair, and financed by IMC Financial Traders and the many businesses and organisations that believe in equity and providing young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with opportunities that would be normally denied them. It is a program for Year 8 and 9 students. Ideally the same students remain part of SKY HIGH for two years. The IMC SKY HIGH program aims to develop individual potential and create positive thinking about future possibilities. During the program and experiences, students gain knowledge about career pathways and understanding about how to achieve particular goals, they are encouraged to apply numeracy and literacy in real life contexts, including navigating public transport and unfamiliar environments, developing confidence in communicating within formal and informal setting and building resilience and courage through trying unfamiliar challenges.

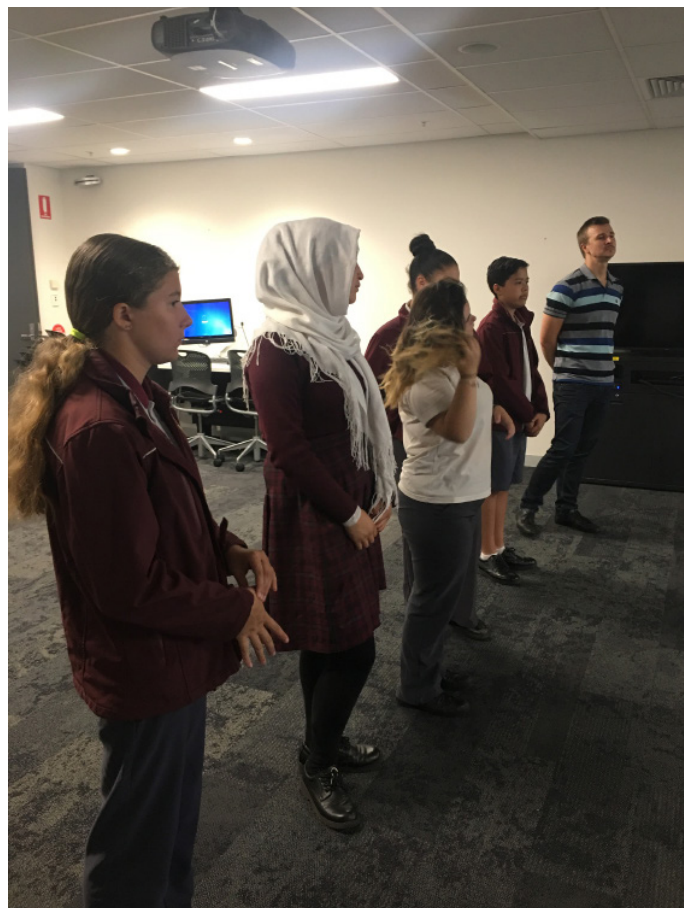
The ten students who participated in SKY HIGH were wonderful ambassadors for the school. Everywhere these students went, they were complimented on their behaviour, attitude and preparedness to give things a go! Congratulations to Taylor Culpan, Jordan Norris, Grace Georgis, Farzaneh Akhlaghi, Anna Cao, Adam Hrouk, Annie Leota, Jayden Smith, Rabieh El-Azzaz and Asahak Youssef.

The last experience held on Wednesday, 6 December was a great way to end the year on a challenging, yet enriching experience. The Art of Communication, a session co-facilitated by George, a Drama and Performance Senior Lecturer at UTS, Dr Nicola Sinclair and Sandris. Students practiced working as a team, using effective body language, eye contact and vocal skills. In groups of two, students went away and created an obstacle course using classroom furniture. In pairs, one student was blindfolded and the other guided the student through the obstacle. This activity was great for developing communication skills, especially active listening. Students said they felt a sense of appreciation for those who are blind and they also acknowledged the importance of clear, open and effective communication. These rich experiences resulted in positive impact on all students participating. The communication and interaction skills will be an asset to them in 2018 and beyond as they enter the workplace. They will have the opportunity to meet the IMC financial traders, experiment with robotics, be involved in urban design-thinking workshops and learn about the Australian stock exchange! This is a small glimpse of what our 'Sky Highers' will experience next year!.

Stay tuned for more on SKY HIGH.

**Ms El Samman**

Transition Advisor





## ALL SET FOR iSTEM!

Chester Hill High School is proud to offer a new elective course in Year 9 this year called iSTEM. This exciting course sees Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics taught in an integrated manner to develop 21st century skills in students using real world examples and competitions to promote and develop problem-solving skills.

The learning program is filled with exciting activities such as building rockets, Formula 1 challenge, 4x4 challenge, CAD design, 3D printing and robotics. The interpersonal skills being explored in this subject are effective communication skills, problem-solving skills and team work. Our iSTEM students are bubbling with excitement to embark on this journey of learning.

In the 21st century, the demand for scientific and technological innovations has increased dramatically. To benefit from the challenges of both globalization and a knowledge-based economy and to succeed in this new information-based and highly technological society, students need to develop their capabilities in STEM to new levels.

iSTEM is one of the ways in which students at Chester Hill High School are developing their 21st century skills and having loads of fun at the same time, under the guidance of Ms T Smith, who is an experienced science teacher and has a passion for STEM. We look forward to sharing more about this journey in the upcoming newsletters.

**Ms Singh**



## YEAR 7

As Year 7 Advisor, it has been an exciting experience watching our Year 7 students settle so well into our school. I have been hearing many positive remarks and am thrilled to watch them actively become a member of the Chester Hill High School community. In particular, the Year 7 students have been engaging in the Peer Support program which will aid them to understand high school dynamics, improve their self-esteem and build positive relationships with their teachers and peers. The students have been enjoying the various activities, games and workshops lead by some of our senior students who are taking this wonderful opportunity to develop their leaderships skills. In light of leadership, four Year 7 students have recently been elected into the SRC for 2018.

**Ms Khunger**





## UNDERSTANDING LEARNING DIFFICULTIES - A WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Date: Thursday, 15 March 2018

Time: 5pm to 7pm

Location: Concord Library, 60 Flavelle Street, Concord

Presenter: Mandy Nayton, CEO Dyslexia SPELD Foundation WA and President AUSPELD

Limited spots available - Members - \$30; Non-members \$40

This workshop is targeted at parents, caregivers and family members of children with learning difficulties. This workshop will provide a greater awareness and understanding of the impact that learning disabilities can have on children. Attendees will review the Understanding Learning Difficulties: A Practical Guide for Parents and be provided with advice on effectively using this resource to assist people with learning difficulties. The workshop will also take a look at issues such as self-esteem and dyslexia-friendly schools to ensure parents and caregivers are better equipped to support those with learning difficulties both at home and through effective communication with schools

## ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our annual swimming carnival was held on Monday, 26 February. The day was well attended, despite the poor weather. We had impressive results from a number of students across all age groups and the 25m races provided a great opportunity for students to engage in a non-competitive environment. A big thank you to all students who attended on the day and also the staff who braved the conditions to ensure our Cheso students had a great day's competition.

For the record, Florey were the winners of the house challenge by a huge margin which sets up for an exciting showdown at the athletics carnival on 29 March at the Crest Athletics Centre.

The following students were Age Champions for 2018:

12 Years Girl	Amal Alameddine
12 Years Boy	Rami Alameddine
13 Years Girl	Leila Safrglani
13 Years Boy	David An
14 Years Girl	Reanna Cheng
14 Years Boy	Andrew La
15 Years Girl	Natalie Hamad
15 Years Boy	Steven Le
16 Years Girl	Katie An
16 Years Boy	Mohammed Chamma
17 Years Girl	Danielle Coughlin
17 Years Boy	Ahmed Ayad



*Mixed 50m Backstroke Final*





AND THEY'RE OFF!!!!!!



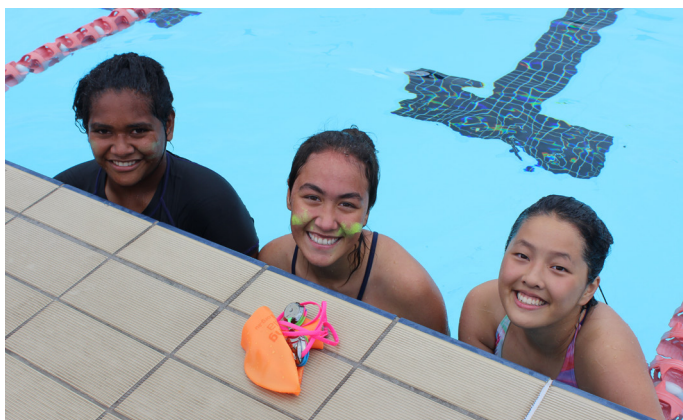
GLENN HOUSE



YEAR 12



YEAR 12



14 YRS GIRLS 50M FREESTYLE COMPETITORS



YEAR 12







# Chester Hill High School

## Calendar of Events - Term 1 - 2018



Week	Day	Date	Event
1B	Tuesday	30.1.18	* Years 7, 11 & 12 commence
	Wednesday	31.1.18	* Years 8, 9 & 10 return
2A	Tuesday	6.2.18	* Sport Commences
			* Year 7 - SRC Nominations due this week
3B	Wednesday	14.2.18	* School Photographs
	Friday	16.2.18	* Year 12 Group Photograph and Absentees
4A	Wednesday	21.2.18	* <b>NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE</b> - School's Website <i>www.chesterhillhighschool.com - click on news - then newsletters</i>
			* <b>PARENT MEETINGS 4.00pm</b> Meet the Principal; 4.30-5.30 Yrs7, 8, & 9 - Study Skills sessions 6.00pm-7.00pm Yr 10,11,12 Understanding the HSC - <b>COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING</b> to follow study skills sessions
			* Year Meetings
	Thursday	22.3.18	* Year Meetings
5B	Monday	26.2.18	* <b>SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL</b> - at Birrong Pool
	Friday	2.3.18	* Year 12 Fast Forward Uni Day
6A	Monday	5.3.18	* <b>Zone Swimming Carnival</b>
	Tuesday	6.3.18	* <b>YEAR 6 OPEN DAY</b> - 12.45pm
	Friday	9.3.18	* <b>LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY</b> (9.00am - 10.30am)
7B	Monday	12.3.18	* <b>Regional Swimming Carnival</b>
	Wednesday	14.3.18	* Year Meetings
			* <b>YEAR 7 PARENT/TEACHER AFTERNOON</b> (4.00pm - 5.30pm) <i>includes Assessment Policy Distribution and NAPLAN Information</i>
	Friday	16.3.18	* IEC 40th Year Celebrations
9B	Wednesday	28.3.18	* <b>NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE</b> - School's Website <i>www.chesterhillhighschool.com - click on news - then newsletters</i>
	Thursday	29.3.18	* <b>SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL</b> - at the Crest Bankstown
	Friday	30.3.18	* <b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> - Good Friday
10A	Monday	2.4.18	* <b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> - Easter Monday
	Tuesday	3.4.18	* <b>Year 12 Half-Yearly Examinations</b> - Week 10 and Week 11
11B	Monday	9.4.18	* <b>Year 12 Half-Yearly Examinations</b> - Week 10 and Week 11
	Friday	13.4.18	* <b>Last day of Term 1 – Friday 13.4.18      First Day Term 2 – Tuesday 1.5.18</b>

### REMINDERS

*Uniform Shop: Tuesdays 8.30am to 11.30am - Hall      Students Mon/Wed/Fri - Lunchtime - Hall*

**\*\* School Uniform is compulsory.** School Parent Committees, the School Community Forum and staff all believe that school uniform enhances the school's image with the community and gives our students a sense of belonging and pride. All uniform is to be worn as designed, and not altered in any way.

**\*\* MOBILE PHONES** - must be switched off and in school bags at all times whilst on school premises or excursions.