

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Term One was a great success. It seems as if everyday there was a myriad of exciting learning experiences and opportunities to take advantage of.

Farewell to Ms Arnold

With the conclusion of Term One we farewelled **Ms Arnold** who was a long standing member of the Creative and Performing Arts faculty. The contributions she made to each of her music students and to our music programs

are beyond measure. Each year she played a significant role in supporting Flag Day and our student performers in addition to the numerous musical items for annual performances. She worked in close partnership with Mr Htoo to develop and deliver a rich music program to our students. Ms Arnold was also passionate about supporting the wellbeing of students in her role as Year Adviser for many years. On behalf of the entire school community we wish her every success at her new school and know they are gaining a quality and committed educator.

Parent Participation and Involvement

In Term One, we held Parent Information sessions in Week Four with a focus on specialised information relating to courses of study and study skills across all stages. The purpose was to ensure that parents were aware of what students needed to be doing in order to facilitate and oversee them at home. The majority of students who perform well consistently are supervised closely at home. Students are not provided autonomous rights when they are underage in any area of their lives. It is recognised within society and supported scientifically that adolescents, while on the verge of adulthood, have significant progress to make physically, mentally and emotionally. This is where the joint supervision and support that school and home provides is so vital. While we appreciate every single parent who attended, we expected many more who did not. We are certain that parents who maintain high levels of communication with school and know what to

CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
KENWARD AVE
CHESTER HILL 2162
Ph: 9644 1099
Fax: 9743 7174
www.chesterhillhighschool.com

expect and hold their children accountable. Our periods are approximately 50 minutes long. If we factor in time taken to enter, unpack, settle, receive instructions, pack up and exit and if we assumed that the student worked uninterrupted for the rest of the period (which is unlikely for a number of reasons) the most time they would spend immersed in their study would be 40 minutes and this is idealistic at best. This is not enough to master any subject compared to students who then go home and complete unfinished tasks, review their work, make summary notes, complete practice exercises/tasks, work on assignments and study incrementally for tests.

Students who are left alone and make poor choices about the work they do and the quality of the work they submit will predominantly make poor choices. Students who never feel the expectation that their parents will be asking how they are progressing become used to doing as they please. If no one is asking about the assignment that is due in a fortnight and checking on their progress at home, sometimes, very little is done. Most importantly, students must be held accountable for their progress when reports are available to parents and most parents should attend Parent Teacher nights.

In Term 2, we will be piloting a more refined and accessible report template in response to consultation with parents and staff in 2017. A pilot of the new reporting template will be trialed this year. In addition, we are in the process of providing a Parent Portal in order to facilitate more regular access to student information, including performance and attendance. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

We look forward to meeting with all of you at Parent / Teacher Night on Monday, June 4.

Ms Z Dabaja

Principal



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And more!

IEC REPORT - 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

2018 marks the 40th year that Chester Hill IEC has been in operation. Since 1978, countless new arrivals and refugees have graduated from the Intensive English Program at the IEC, gaining the essential skills and knowledge to successfully build a life in Australia. To commemorate the years of successes, the Chester Hill High School community put on an extravaganza complete with musical performances, choreographed dances, a tree planting ceremony, a time capsule burial and a multicultural feast, complete with a delicious red velvet cake for dessert!

Multicultural Performances

Ms Stowers and **Mr Taunton** worked tirelessly to prepare the performing arts students for the 40th Anniversary assembly. The items that they put together were diverse and unique, displaying the multitude of talent that exists in the IEC. From the traditional Afghan and Vietnamese dances to the more modern rap song and dramatization, they put on a great show that left the audience wanting more.



Time Capsule and Tree Planting

An Ivory Curl sapling was planted beside the office to commemorate the 40th Anniversary. Behind the Ivory Curl, a time capsule was buried with the intention of opening it at the 50th Anniversary. The time capsule was full of personalised messages from the students of the IEC as well as a range of memorabilia unique to the IEC.



Multicultural Feast

The IEC is a melting pot of cultures, truly representative of Australia's spirit of multiculturalism and unity. This was highlighted in the feast prepared by the IEC for the special guests who attended the 40th Anniversary celebrations. The staff of the IEC prepared a range of dishes that showcased their cultural cuisines, including Persian Luba Polow rice, Palestinian Vegetarian Dolma, Singaporean Noodles, Filipino Coconut Tartlettes, chicken curry and Lebanese charcoal chicken.

Mr Ocampo

Relieving Head Teacher IEC



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND #Heforshe

This year, the theme for The United Nations International Women's Day (8 March) was 'Leave No Woman Behind'. The aim was to examine and celebrate the crucial role women play in humanitarian and disaster planning and response. Chester Hill High School joined in recognising the significant contribution of all the women in our lives, through events organised by the SRC.

Awareness was firstly raised through a speech delivered by SRC member, **Amrisha Mani**, earlier that day. She spoke about her own experiences growing up as the only girl with brothers, which taught Amrisha to feel as capable as her brothers, and proceeded to list some important facts that highlighted issues with gender inequality that still exist today.

At lunch, the SRC sold purple ribbons and purple jelly to the student body to raise funds for the UN Women Project, supporting women in communities in areas of great need around the world. A total of \$326.60 was raised. The SRC would like to thank the students, parents and staff for their support.

The SRC also organised a morning assembly for our senior students to mark the occasion and create awareness. The school was fortunate to hear from two inspiring speakers: Olympic Water Polo Bronze Medalist and now coach, Rebecca Rippon, and boxer and Unlikely Poet, Kaveh Arya. As an inspirational role model who grew up in Chester Hill, Rebecca Rippon was interviewed by the school ambassador, **Hania Zahra**. Rebecca shared her own life experiences and opinions on inequality towards women in sport and what led her to strive to be a great athlete.



Kaveh followed with an important message for the boys on concepts of masculinity and how our language choices can encourage gender inequality. He also challenged the idea that 'women are weak'. Throughout the presentation, students were highly engaged.

Following on from our guest speakers, the school's ambassador for Standing Against Violence Towards Women, **Kevin Long**, made a statement for the purpose of the #Heforshe campaign, designed to enlist the support of men in taking a stand against inequality. Kevin led the male students in standing for a vision

statement of the campaign. It was a proud moment to see our boys physically taking a stand for the female students around them.

Together with **Ms Campbell**, students also contributed towards the creation of a short video clip, reminding us all of the great range of things women are, and giving homage to the women in their lives who have inspired them. Many students mentioned their mums as being both strong and giving, as well as having a major influence in their lives. This was very moving.

Students and teachers alike were challenged, inspired and moved by the assembly. The event started many conversations throughout the day and left the female members of our school community feeling both valued and empowered.

Mohamad Al Khazali, SRC Member

STEM MADMAKER CHALLENGE

At the end of 2017, under the guidance of **Ms T Smith**, 9V Science students took part in a coding and programming challenge called *MadMaker*, run by the University of Sydney. This was a 5-week online course designed to bring integrated STEM into the classroom by introducing coding and programming, through the use of an *Arduino Esplora* micro-controller.



As a class, students created a ping-pong style arcade game to apply their newfound coding and programming skills. The students found the challenge both engaging and enriching. The result of their hard work and dedication was realised this year when several participating students were awarded High Distinction and Distinction certificates from the University of Sydney. Big congratulations go to **Ryan Truong, Steven Le, Amy Chen, George Truong** and **Eric Tran** for achieving High Distinction for their superb work.

We look forward to providing even more opportunities for students in the field of coding and robotics this year.

Ms Singh

Head Teacher Science

YOUNG CHANGE AGENTS

In Term 1, a team of Year 9 and 10 students, accompanied by **Ms Leong**, participated in a 3-day entrepreneurial workshop called "Young Change Agents". It is a social entrepreneurship program for 10-18 year olds that helps youths to see problems as opportunities.

The workshop provides students with the tools to think creatively, build skills in critical thinking and communication and to empower them to believe that they are good enough to be entrepreneurs, leaders and world changers.

This workshop also included the participation of other schools, including Condell Park High School, Fairfield High School and Sir Joseph Banks High School. During this 3-day course, students developed many skills, such as confidence, listening, communication and team work, whilst learning new skills, for example, an entrepreneurial mindset and resiliency. This workshop also incorporated a competition where each school team was to develop a social enterprise and pitch their idea to a panel of judges.

Fortunately, the Year 9 Chester Hill High School team were the winners of the People's Choice Award and the Year 10 team were the winners of the Judge's Prize. In the success of the Year 10 team winning the Judge's prize, they each received a Bluetooth speaker.

Andrew Ha

Year 10



BUILDING BEGINS ON NEW ADMINISTRATION BLOCK

Chester Hill High School continues moving towards a brighter future with construction of the new Administration Block underway this term. The convenient location of this building, facing Miller Road, will provide a more secure entrance and easier access to the school for visitors and parents. Construction is scheduled to be completed and the building fully-operational by the end of the year.

The new building will include modern facilities with a sick bay and offices for the Principal and Senior Executive. The combined offices of the Intensive English Centre and high school in the new Administration Block will also strengthen relationships and build on a sense of unity between the two schools.

Amrisha Mani

Year 9

#TrainLikeAGirl - Our All Girls Boxing Group



When somebody says, "You train like a girl ...", they generally mean it as an insult. This group of female staff and students meets together each week to challenge the meaning of that expression in our culture.

We believe that to "train like a girl" means to train to the best of your ability, showing strength and determination. Our group is for girls of all ages who want to learn how to exercise in a team environment.

The group participates in various cardio activities, body weight exercises and boxing drills each week and we continue to see improvements in participants' confidence, technique, strength, health and fitness.

#TrainLikeA Girl meets on Thursday afternoons from 3.30 - 4.30pm under the guidance of **Ms Blue** and **Ms A Smith**. If any staff member or student would like to participate in this group, just collect a yellow permission note from the front office and return it.

Ms Blue

Head Teacher Mathematics

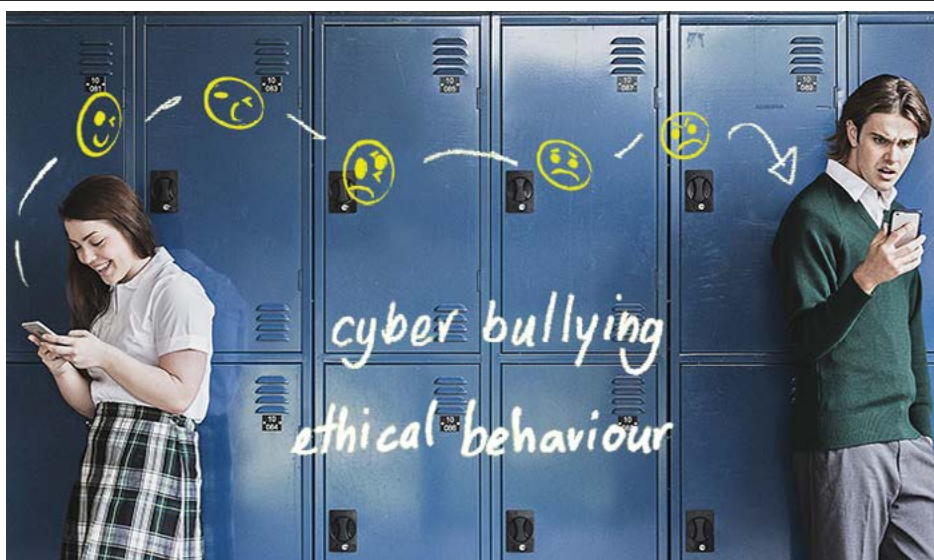


'THE FLIPSIDE'

On 22 May 2018, Brainstorm Productions will be presenting their student wellbeing program *The Flipside* for our Year 7 students.

Powerful, current and thoroughly contemporary, *The Flipside* is an unflinching live theatre experience about our online behaviour and its potentially infinite ramifications. *The Flipside* depicts two teen characters that are embedded in the online community, including gaming, social networking and content creation. The sheer magnitude of online interactions, 'selfies', videos, memes and mash-ups uploaded every minute means that posts quickly disappear into the ether, but not always. These characters suddenly realise they can't just press the 'undo' button to save their relationships, reputation or their dignity. *The Flipside* will encourage students to think carefully before they 'post', 'snap' or sign up.

The Flipside is part of our student wellbeing curriculum and the program has been developed in consultation with teachers and psychologists, as well as drawing on real-life student experiences. The methodology of the program is safe,



supportive and non-judgmental and designed to provide students with positive and useful tools that they can use in their everyday lives.

More than 350,000 Australian students have already benefited from Brainstorm Productions' multi-award-winning educational theatre programs over the past twelve months. Their programs cater to the specific wellbeing needs of students, helping to create a healthy and harmonious school environment. If you would like to know more about Brainstorm Productions, visit their website at www.brainstormproductions.edu.au

LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

On 9 March, a number of students from both the high school and IEC were inducted and celebrated for their leadership roles within the school community. Our School Captains, School Ambassador, Prefects, SRC Leaders, Peer Support Leaders and IEC Student Leaders were presented with their badges and a certificate. The Assembly was organised by **Ms Mateus** and run by the SRC. Students were reminded of their responsibilities and congratulated for their success in achieving a position of leadership.

The audience included our Year 7 students, IEC students and parents. The school is proud of our student leaders and wish them every success in their new roles.

Carissa Dalglish

Year 11



ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Our Annual Athletics Carnival was held on Thursday, 29 March. With excellent weather and an outstanding participation rate, the day was very successful.

The students were well-behaved and enthusiastically cheered for their House. The House spirit and passionate display of House colours and support from Year 12 students was remarkable.

A big thank you to all staff members for their assistances on the day, allowing the carnival to run smoothly and effectively. Thank you also to all students who contributed to make the day successful and a special thank you to those students who supported staff with the coordination of track and field events throughout the day.

All students should be pleased with their efforts and are to be congratulated on their high level of participation and excellent representation. There was a large number of talented athletes on the day who will advance to the Sydney South West Zone Athletics Carnival to be held on 4 and 5 July.

The Age Champions on the day were:

| Boys | |
|----------|---|
| 12 Years | Houssam Breiss |
| 13 Years | Jamshid Mirzaei |
| 14 Years | Mustafa Ashrafi |
| 15 Years | Lukemann El-Hawat |
| 16 Years | Kenny Saengsavath |
| 17 Years | Andre Kotevski & Mohammad Tahir Ayaz (IEC) |

| Girls | |
|----------|------------------------|
| 12 Years | Amal Alameddine |
| 13 Years | Mariama Bah |
| 14 Years | Annie Leota |
| 15 Years | Natalie Hamad |
| 16 Years | Sia Aruna |
| 17 Years | Ashlyn Smith |





Chester Hill High School

Calendar of Events Term 2 - 2018



| Week | Day | Date | Event |
|------|-----------|---------|---|
| 2B | Friday | 11.5.18 | * SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY - all students (Recess +) |
| | | | * 'Cheso the Voice' - auditions Pds 1-2 |
| 3A | Monday | 14.5.18 | * YEAR 11 Assessment Period Commences |
| | Tuesday | 15.5.18 | * NAPLAN 15/5 - 17/5 |
| | Wednesday | 16.5.18 | * NAPLAN 15/5 - 17/5 |
| | Thursday | 17.5.18 | * NAPLAN 15/5 - 17/5 |
| 4B | Monday | 21.5.18 | * YEAR 11 Assessment Period Continues |
| | Wednesday | 23.5.18 | * NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE <i>www.chesterhillhighschool.com - click on news - then newsletters</i> |
| 5A | Monday | 28.5.18 | * Zone Cross Country |
| | Wednesday | 30.5.18 | * Year Meetings |
| | | | * COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING (6.00pm) <i>(All parents welcome)</i> |
| | Thursday | 31.5.18 | * Year Meetings |
| 6B | Monday | 4.6.18 | * 'Cheso the Voice' Finals (Lunch and Pd 5) |
| | | | * Year 12 Parent/Teacher Meeting 4.00pm - 5.30pm |
| 7A | Monday | 11.6.18 | * PUBLIC HOLIDAY - Queen's Birthday |
| | Thursday | 14.6.18 | * Year Meetings |
| | | | * Regional Cross Country |
| 9A | Wednesday | 27.6.18 | * NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE <i>www.chesterhillhighschool.com - click on news - then newsletters</i> |
| | Thursday | 28.6.18 | * MULTICULTURAL FLAG CEREMONY - (9.45am and 12.45pm) |
| | Friday | 29.6.18 | * MULTICULTURAL FLAG CEREMONY - (11.15am <u>tickets ONLY</u>) |
| 10B | Wednesday | 4.7.18 | * ZONE ATHLETICS |
| | | | * PARENT/TEACHER NIGHT YEARS 7-11 (4.00pm to 7.30pm) |
| | Thursday | 5.7.18 | * ZONE ATHLETICS |
| | Friday | 6.7.18 | * Last day of Term 2 |

Last Day Term 2 – Friday 6.7.18 First Day Term 3 – Tuesday 24.7.18

UNIFORM SHOP - School Hall

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1.00pm to 1.30pm Tuesday - 8.30am to 11.30am