

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

A warm welcome to all new students, staff and parents of Chester Hill High School, particularly to our new Year 7 students who are settling in well to high school life. I wish them success in their studies and time at "Cheso".

The year started off with a number of staff changes, including myself in the Acting Principal role. We have welcomed many new teachers who have taken up positions across the high school and IEC. Some



of these positions are permanent, while others have been created to provide additional support to our students in the classroom. In the PDHPE Faculty, **Ms E Wuegartsch**, **Mr A Kramer**, **Ms A Hammad**, **Mr J Tyndall** and **Ms C Krlevska**. In the CAPA Faculty, **Mr R Spiers**, **Ms H Smith**, **Ms M Sowden**, **Ms K**

Mladenovic, **Ms S Paphitis** and **Mr M Swindells**. In History, **Ms C Fisher**. In English, **Mr A Wade** and **Ms Jamaledine**. In Maths, **Ms R Awed** and **Mr A Davies**. In Learning Support/EALD **Ms G Shaji**, **Mr F Broudou** and **Ms P Kohli**. In the Library, **Ms A Semari**. In Social Science, **Mr K Krishna** and **Ms Charalambous**. In Science, **Ms I Angelakis** and **Mr A Iskandar**. We have a number of experienced staff stepping up to leadership positions in their faculties. **Mr P Htoo** is currently the Relieving Head Teacher CAPA, **Mr C Trovato** has taken on the Relieving Head Teacher Engagement role, **Mr A Viller**, Relieving Head Teacher Social Science, **Ms T Smith**, Relieving Head Teacher Science, **Mr L Brown** continues to share the Head Teacher role with **Ms E Christian** whom we welcome back after her maternity leave. **Ms E Leong** is the Relieving Head Teacher English, **Ms R Taleb**, Relieving Head Teacher Administration, **Ms I Sharma**, Relieving Head Teacher Learning Support/EALD/Japanese, and **Ms P Poon**, Relieving Head Teacher Maths. We also have **Ms N Benton** relieving in the Deputy Principals' role looking after Years 10 and 11 while

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I am Acting Principal. It has been a very busy term for all as many people are not only new to their role, they are also new to the school. But in the true Cheso way, all staff have worked tirelessly, sometimes late into the evenings, to ensure that they are delivering quality teaching and learning experiences to our students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work, dedication and commitment this term.

Congratulations to our Year 12 students of 2018 who successfully achieved outstanding results in the Higher School Certificate. Congratulations to **Chengkai Kevin Lin** who achieved the highest ATAR at CHHS of 97.15 – a fantastic achievement. Congratulations also to **Anthony Tran** 95.75, **Tran Phuong Thao Tina Le** 94.9, **Vivien Doan Nguyen** 93.95, **Melissa Do** 92.9, **Hania Zahra** 91.5, **Anh Van Hoang** 88.0, **Annika Po** 83.4. A total of 32 students were listed as Distinguished Achievers for gaining a Band 6 in an HSC course and 145 students achieved a Band 5 in an HSC course! This is a wonderful result for the consistent effort, hard work and dedication from all the students and their teachers. Congratulations to the students, parents and teachers.

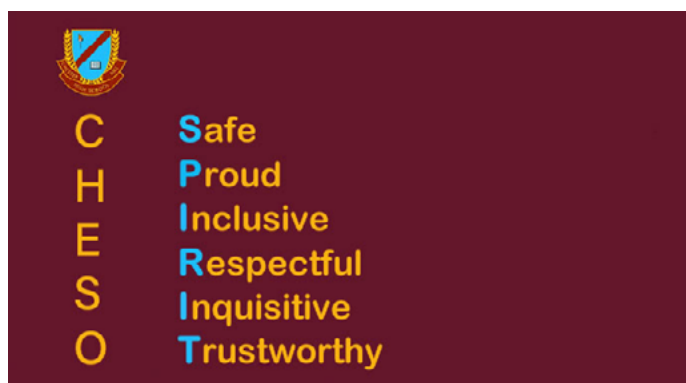
Our achievements were also recognised in the Sydney Morning Herald. Please click on the link to read the article

<https://www.smh.com.au/education/schools-that-punched-above-their-weight-in-the-2018-hsc-20181214-p50m9d.html>

There have also been many changes in the school's physical environment. As you all know, the office block has moved to the new building on Miller Road. Of course, that in itself has provided many challenges for staff and students. We are all still working out a new way of operating. However, we are very happy with our new office block and it is definitely a more modern environment to work in. In an effort to improve all teaching and learning environments, staff were also able to purchase additional furniture and upgrade their classrooms and staffrooms so that our school is a more pleasant place to be in. Our D Block, old office block, is in the process of being

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upgraded to create new teaching spaces, including classrooms and a hospitality/café style classroom for our students to welcome parents and guests. We have created a new EAL/D staffroom downstairs and eventually the Learning Support and Japanese Faculty will also move downstairs to provide additional staff members in the downstairs area of D Block. Furthermore, there are plans in place to create a new gym for our students. This is currently being approved by Assets Management and we plan to commence work in Term Two.

The year started with our Swimming and Athletics Carnivals which were huge successes thanks to the outstanding organisation of the PDHPE Faculty. Our students got into the **SPIRIT** of the events, they dressed in their house colours, cheered their peers and participated in all the trivia events to gain many house points.

We celebrated our student leadership achievements at our Leadership Assembly, where we inducted our School Captains and Prefects, SRC Leaders, House Captains, Peer Support Leaders and IEC Leaders. This is an important school event which celebrates and acknowledges our student leaders. We were very pleased that **Mr John Kennedy**, our Director Educational Leadership, was able to attend to share this special event with us. On the same day, our students attended the Zonta International Women's Day Breakfast where **Harmony Wilton** of Year 11 received the Outstanding Young Woman Year 10 Citizenship Award and **George Troung** received the Young Men Standing Strong Against Violence Award. Congratulations to both our students on their achievements.

We held a Year 7 Meet the Teachers evening, which provided parents with an informal afternoon to get to know their child's teachers and to support our goal to ensure every child at Chester Hill High School is known, valued and cared for.

Parents were also provided with valuable information on how to assist their children in preparing for the upcoming NAPLAN.

We have had our first Community Forum for the year which was combined with a Study Skills Session for parents to assist their children in preparing for the demands of high school or senior school. We will be having a second Community Forum this term to discuss the School Plan with our community and present the updated Anti-Bullying Policy and our PB4L initiative - The Chesos SPIRIT!

Our partnerships with our Community of Schools have continued to grow and this year we welcome the new Principal at Old Guildford Public School, Ms Helen Morgani who will be very busy organising the school's 60th Anniversary. We are looking forward to those events as well as to all our CoS events throughout the year.

As I finalise this Newsletter, I would like to officially introduce our new Principal, Ms Maria O'Harae who will be starting in her role in Term 2. Ms O'Harae comes from Asquith Girls High School and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience which she will share with our staff and students.

I am excited about the year ahead, especially the many projects to upgrade the school and provide more innovative learning experiences for our students.

THANK YOU to our staff, especially our SASS, students and parents for your support during my time as Acting Principal. It has been an honour to lead this amazing school.

Christina Mateus

Acting Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - MRS CREMIN

Welcome to Year 7 of 2019! They will eventually be Year 12 HSC class of 2024! It has been an exciting start to the year, with Year 7 getting used to following their timetable, moving from one class to another and working with their Peer Support leaders to make their transition to high school smooth and enjoyable.

Year 9 have started the year well, successfully beginning their elective subjects. This is the first time they have had the opportunity to make some decisions about what they study and are enjoying their study of subjects like Commerce, PASS, iSTEM, Visual Arts and many more. Work hard and enjoy this opportunity!

The Year 9 boys group for The Helmsman Project have started working with their teacher mentor, **Mr Aweida**, and their Helmsman coaches, Leon and Sam. They are busy working on their community project and will complete their 5 day adventure near Belanglo in the last week of Term One.

Mrs Cremin

Deputy Principal

RELIEVING DEPT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - MS BENTON

We are already nearing the end of Term 1 2019! We have been so busy here at Chesos that I have hardly had time to ponder what this means.

In this role, I have the responsibility of processing teacher training and student excursions. I am happy to report that our calendar is already full of exciting programs for staff and students. There have been as many as 75 opportunities that staff have taken to improve their practice and knowledge and nearly 80 different incursions, excursions and programs made available to our students. What a great school we are to have so many opportunities that cater to a huge range of interests and abilities!

The SPIRIT campaign was also launched this term and **Mr Trovato** and his SRC team of SPIRITed students have been educating and engaging the staff and school. The whole team is to be commended as their message is certainly getting across with about 300 positive notices posted on our Sentral recording system. **Mr Schnee** is our most SPIRITed teacher

with the most positive notices recorded in his lesson. Well done, Mr Schnee!

Speaking of positivity, our school has come alive during lunchtimes with many groups beginning their Flag Day multicultural dance practices. The drums of the Dabke, the lively finale dancers building their muscle memory and the cries of the Paskifika nations are signalling the start of impending festivities. Can I take this opportunity to remind students of the SPIRIT of Flag Day - namely, Inclusiveness and Respect. Let the older students mentor and guide the younger students and continue sharing the Proud cultural heritage you share. Please do not use Flag Day as an excuse to exclude others or excuse you from your learning and other responsibilities. Let it be the motivating factor behind your Inquisitive actions and commitment to learning!

In my term as Relieving Deputy Principal I have learnt a great deal and wish to thank my amazing Year 10 and 11 students for their SPIRITed commitment to their learning, as well as **Ms Mateus, Mrs Cremin, Mr Rosewall, Mr Viller, Ms Charalambous**, our tireless SASS staff and the other staff and students who have helped and inspired me in many ways.

Ms Benton

Relieving Deputy Principal

IEC REPORT

The IEC began 2019 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, Philippines, Afghanistan and Lebanon, to name a few. The playground is a melting pot of cultural diversity. Students quickly got settled into their classes, learning English language, Literacy and Numeracy skills essential for accessing the Australian Curriculum.

A number of programs and initiatives have been initiated this term, which aim to increase student engagement and further develop English language proficiency. **Ms Kim** has arranged the Literacy Art Program, which develops literacy through art. Furthermore, **Ms Downey** has resumed work with the art group at lunchtime to create more masterpieces. **Mr Toms**, **Ms Kim** and **Mr Ingram** have all continued their music programs at Lunch ranging from guitar, singing and ukulele.

In Week 3, the 15 student leaders were announced at the IEC assembly. They embody the CHESO SPIRIT and have shown excellence in all areas of school life. The student leaders for this term are **Dendy Gonzales, Deborah Biumaiono, Krislhen Mateo, Munira Rasoli, Minhaj Muhumad, Emil Gonzales, Mary Nguyen, Thao Pham, Brian Nguyen, Anahita Haidari, Issa Habib, Mohamed Hassan, Mahboba Hemmat, Vy Nguyen** and **Ali Akbar Rasoli**.

In English this term, students have been working on developing their skills with visual literacy. In class they have been analysing a range of things like advertisements, artworks, movie posters and book covers. **Mr Toms, Ms Downey, Ms Zhong** and **Ms Searle** organised excursions for students at the IEC to visit the



Art Gallery of NSW to see the Art Express Exhibition. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to see art produced by other students across NSW but also to use the visual literacy skills to find meaning in the art.

Mr Ocampo

TELL THEM FROM ME

I am delighted that this term, once again, our school will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>

At Chester Hill High School, the survey will be a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. More than 6,300 schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me to survey 5.4 million students. Capturing the voices of our students will help improve how we do things at our school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 4 April and 12 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Wednesday, 3 April 2019. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The consent form and FAQs are available in 23 languages.

Mr Trovato,

Rel HT Engagement

WELLBEING UPDATE

Head Teacher Wellbeing: Miss Sullivan

Year 7 Adviser – Mrs Richards

Year 7 Assistant Adviser – Ms Knight

Year 8 Adviser – Ms Khunger

Year 8 Assistant Adviser – Ms Brennan

Year 9 Adviser – Ms Ing

Year 9 Assistant Adviser – Ms Miller

Year 10 Advisers – Mrs Stewart and Mrs Matanovic

Year 10 Assistant Adviser – Mr Aweida

Year 11 Adviser – Ms Lowe

Year 11 Assistant Advisers – Ms Taleb and Mr Swindells

Year 12 Adviser – Mr Criniti

Year 12 Assistant Adviser – Mr Schnee

Term One has been extremely busy for the Wellbeing Team and the Year Advisers and Assistants have been working hard to help their students settle into the new year.

We have recently commended the success of students at the Celebration of Success Year Meetings with many students receiving awards. Students are encouraged to hand in their merits to their Assistant Adviser each time they receive 10 new ones!

Some lucky Year 10 and 11 students also spent two days representing Chester Hill High School at the Young Humanitarians Conference run by Bankstown Council. Students had the opportunity to meet with teens from other



schools and explore issues relevant to their communities.

The Wellbeing Team has also been finalising the 2019 Anti-Bullying Plan which can be accessed on the school website - <https://chesterhil-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/rules-and-policies.html>

The school also supports the NSW Health Vaccination program each year. Year 7 students had the opportunity to receive their HPV (Gardasil9) and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Boostrix) vaccinations early in the term. The follow-up HPV vaccinations will occur in Term 3. If your child missed out on their vaccinations, they can pick up a form from Miss Sullivan in D-Block. Year 10 will also be provided the forms for their meningococcal vaccinations at the beginning of Term 2 – parents and carers are encouraged to have these forms signed and returned promptly.

Ms Sullivan



Make time in your week to be active with your kids

The more active a parent is, the more likely their child will be active too

For more information, visit:

MakeHealthyNormal.nsw.gov.au



ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Our annual Athletics Carnival was held on Thursday, 21 March. The day started with some rain but fortunately it cleared and we were able to run the carnival in great weather. It was wonderful to see the students cheering for their houses and they looked great in their house colours. The participation rate was high and having so many students involved helped make for an excellent day.

A massive thank you to all of the staff for their assistance on the day, your help allowed the carnival to run smoothly and was greatly appreciated. Also a special thank you to all of the students that helped out on the day.

All students should be proud of their efforts on the day and are to be congratulated for the high participation rate. There were some outstanding performances on the day with a number of students advancing to the Sydney South West Zone Athletic



carnival to be held on 3-4 July. Good luck to all students that will be attending.

Mr Tyndall



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our swimming carnival was held on Monday, 4 February. The day was very successful, with excellent weather and outstanding participation rates from the students.

A big thank you to all staff members for their assistance 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 marshaling and errands on the day.

On the day, all students all displayed the Cheso SPIRIT. They were all well-behaved and enthusiastically cheered on their housemates. All students should be pleased with their efforts and should be congratulated on their participation. There were a number of talented swimmers on the day who advanced onto the Sydney South West Zone Swimming Carnival on Wednesday, 6 March.

A big congratulations to **Florey-Freeman**, the winning house, and to the following students who were the age champions for 2019.





Boys

12s	Ahmed El Bahnsawi Youssef Al Saedy Qoussay Agha
13s	Ahmed Hares
14s	David An
15s	Andrew La
16s	Steven Le
17+	Mohammed Chamma



Girls

12s	Emily Gialdini
13s	Ainsley Eastwood
15s	Reanna Cheng
16s	Natalie Hamad
17+	Danielle Coughlin



Well done to all students and everyone involved in the day.

Ms Brennan

CHESO VOLLEYBALL UPDATES

Term 1 was a busy time for Cheso's volleyball enthusiasts.

Zone, Regional and State Representative Volleyball

Early in the term we had a significant group of students selected to represent Bankstown zone in Open Girls and Boys Volleyball. Congratulations to **Fatemah Rezaei, Andrew Ha, Ryan Truong, Henry Huynh, Gordon Luong, Wooje Choi** and **Jamshid Mirzaei** who all participated in the regional carnivals.

Special congratulations to **Andrew Ha** and **Ryan Truong** who were also selected as Sydney South-West Regional representatives for Open Boys volleyball. They had the opportunity to play at the State Championships in Bathurst over three days from March 26-28.



Volleyfest – Beach Volleyball World Tour

On Thursday 7 March, a large group from our Volleyball Club left school at 6am to travel to Manly beach to help out as volunteers at Volleyfest. Our students were ball kids, scorers, rakers and player assistants at the Beach Volleyball world tour event. The organisers and court managers were super impressed with our students. They were cooperative, organised and did an amazing job to help the tournament run smoothly for the long day, with the last game not finishing until 7pm. Despite the long day, it was a fantastic and memorable experience to watch professionals play and help out at such an event.

Ms Poon



LIBRARY UPDATE

It's been a busy start to the year for the library!

- We've had more than 120 new books, study guides, text books and plays order and delivered already, with many, many more on the way!
- Mrs. Semari joined the Library Staff and will be working with us two days a week for the rest of this year!
- Students will have seen the arrival of new lounges to the reading area, as well as book displays for International Women's Day and the National Day against Violence and Bullying.
- We've started reading our way through the Children's Book Council of Australia's Notable books ... and the pressure is on to see if we can match the judges to decide on the short list of award winners.
- All Year 7 classes have been enjoying their fortnightly Wide Reading lessons and the library is absolutely abuzz with activity before school, recess and lunch time!
- Some lucky students have been 'caught' reading and

studying in the library before school, at recess and at lunch time, and have been entered into the running for the termly library prize! Will we catch you next?

- Thanks to everyone who is FINALLY placing their bags on the books and shelves rather than all over the floor. It's fabulous to see our library being a safe space for all students! (Thanks also to Mr. Irons for putting up additional hooks!) All of this activity has definitely kept our 23 Library Monitors very busy. Huge thanks goes out to the

Library Monitors of 2018 who are also busy training our new 2019 recruits!

Senior students should keep an eye out for the arrival of many new text books and study guides - perfect for the New Stage 6 HSC syllabus - and of course start thinking about which character they are going to dress up as for the Book Week Costume Day on Friday, August 23rd. The theme this year is Reading is my Secret Power.

Students are reminded that the Library is a computer game free space during Recess and Lunch each day so that the Library stays a quiet-ish space for students to read, study and do homework. Also, as the end of the term draws near, it is important that all overdue books are returned to the Library. Year 12 especially - I'm looking at you - let's share those new study guides with your peers please.

Ms Miller

Teacher Librarian



CHESS CLUB

This year will be an exciting year because we're introducing students to The Chess Club. We have a lot of keen students vying to become the next chess champion. Students have expressed a lot of excitement about this club because they can meet new people, have fun and learn skills of strategy and logic. The chess club will run during lunch and commence in term 2, 2019.

Mr Schnee

DEBATING NEWS

This year's NSW Premier's Debating Challenge season has got off to a promising start for Chester Hill High School.

Students from years 11 and 12 including **Salima Al Mosawi** (Year 11), **Fatima Moussavi** (Year 11), **Rayan Darwiche** (Year 11), **Saja Koweider** (Year 11), and **Khadija Mossavi** (Year 12) debated against Bass High School. Their topic was "Should teachers have access to student's online posts" and Chester Hill High was the negative team. After a close debate, Bass High was declared the winner.

Our next debate will be taking place in Week 1 of Term 2. We look forward to an exciting season.

Ms Jamaledine

ART EXPRESS 2019

On the 22nd of February, Year 12 Visual Arts students had the opportunity to go on an excursion to 'ART EXPRESS' at the Art Gallery of NSW in the city. The works were from last year's successful Year 12 Visual Arts students from across the state.

There are no words to describe how profoundly detailed and exquisite these artworks were.

Under the careful watch of Ms.Sowden and Ms.Smith, we were shown a variety of artworks that were created by using many different techniques as well as using different materials.

Unfortunately on that day, we experienced some wet weather but overall it didn't stop us from having a good time. The artworks that were presented at the Art Express exhibition really inspired many of us and we will try to create artworks that challenge us for our Body of Works.



Noah Ismail
Yr 12 student

CHESO SPIRIT LAUNCH

An exciting time and prospect has occurred at Chester Hill. An awaking of a new school culture and way of being is happening as students are walking through the playground and corridors, speaking to one another, and representing the school within the eyes of the community.

The Cheso SPIRIT has reached Chester Hill HS in more ways than one. The Cheso SPIRIT is a value system that, in 2018, was made by the students, for the students. This year marked the rollout of the Cheso SPIRIT, which represents the values for students to be: Safe, Proud, Inclusive, Respectful, Inquisitive, and Trustworthy.

It has taken a team of teachers to prepare the rollout of the Cheso SPIRIT and a whole-school approach to keep reiterating the strength behind the values of the Cheso SPIRIT. There have been whole-school lessons promoting the new values, daily SRC announcements about Cheso SPIRIT, a competition where staff are designing their faculty doors to promote the Cheso SPIRIT, and the use of everyday language to reflect the Cheso SPIRIT.

I have students approaching me as I walk through the school who speak with me about the Cheso SPIRIT, many times in a light-hearted nature, as it is becoming a topic of conversation. The important part here is that students are talking about this new value system within the school. Change only happens when it is a point of conversation, and students are conversing each and every day, in some form or another about the new school values.

In 1957, Sir Francis Bacon was one of the first to say 'knowledge is power' and it is true today as it was back then. Students are building their vocabulary with the Cheso SPIRIT to become proud citizens of our school and empowering themselves to be effective members of our community.

Go forth Cheso, be safe and proud in the actions you choose to take. Think of others and be inclusive in said actions. When including others, be respectful in every way you can so that our school can continue to be a place of learning and provide all the opportunities for students to be inquisitive. Then continue to promote these values, repeatedly, and you will be a person who is trustworthy in the eyes of the school and our community.

Be the Cheso you want to see in the world.

Mr Trovato,
Rel HT Engagement

