



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This is the last Chester Hill High School newsletter for 2019. It is hard to believe that the end of another school year has arrived and what an exciting, successful and busy year it has been! The success of our teaching and learning programs is highlighted by our student successes in competitions and in HSC recognition. In the last 12 months, these have included success across all areas of the school. Just some of these are:



- 2 students received the Victor Chang Scholarship
- The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute School Science Awards were developed to foster and encourage an interest in science among secondary school students, with the aim of promoting careers in science as a viable and interesting career path.

- 1 credit and 4 merit awards in the Berbas Computational Thinking Challenge. Berbas is an international student Computational Thinking Challenge and is run by the CSIRO

- The iSTEM class achieved 10th place worldwide in the Fluor Engineering Challenge.

- Our Debating team made it into the finals.

- Students from Years 10 and 11 represented the school at the annual Young Humanitarians Conference.

- Our Under 16 and Open Boys Volleyball teams, coached by Ms Poon, participated at the State NSW Cup. Our Under 16 Boys ended up winning Gold whilst the Opens team won Bronze.

Here at Chester Hill High School we aim to offer a well-rounded education for our students, bringing out their best through the expertise and experience of our teachers. We collectively celebrated the success of our Year 12 students with them at a morning tea. As a school community we are very proud of their results. Our students achieved 21 Band 6 results, 95 Band 5 results and ATAR's of 95, 94.6 and 92 just to mention a few.

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This illustrates the fact that perseverance and sustained effort lead to strong results.

School yearly reports 7-10

All students in Years 7-11, have their yearly reports available on the parent portal at https://chesterhil-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/parent_portal.html. Any parents requiring a copy of these reports should contact the school at chesterhil-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au or 9644 1099 with this request and these reports will then be forwarded to you.

Year 7 Orientation Day

On Tuesday, 3 December, we welcomed our incoming Year 7 students and parents who will be joining us at the start of 2020. The morning gave us an opportunity to provide new parents with important information about the school and help ease the transition of their child.

Staff farewells

At the end of this year we sadly farewell a number of teachers who are leaving Chester Hill high School.

- **Ms K. Lowe** - Refugee Support Leader
- **Ms A. Smith** - Refugee and SRC coordinator
- **Mr F. Boudou** - EAL/D Teacher
- **Mr A. Davies** - Mathematics Teacher
- **Mr A. Trad** - Mathematics Teacher
- **Ms K. Stewart** - History Teacher
- **Ms C. Krlevska** - PD/H/PE Teacher
- **Mr P. Htoo** - Visual arts teacher

We wish all of these teacher's success and happiness in their



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Safe
Proud
Inclusive
Respectful
Inquisitive
Trustworthy

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move and thank them all for their wonderful contribution to Chester Hill High School.

Some key dates at a glance:

- Tuesday 28 January 2020 School Development Day for staff (no students)
- Wednesday 29 January 2020 – years 7,11 and 12 return
- Thursday 30 January 2020 – years 8,9 and 10 return

I would like to thank our teaching and support staff for their professionalism and dedication to their roles in the school. It is this dedication that provides for the opportunities and successes of our students. I would like to thank the administrative staff who work in the background to support the operation of the school and our teachers in delivering their learning programs. I would like to acknowledge our teachers who brought their enthusiasm and knowledge to the classroom, promoting excellence and supporting our students to improve results.

Thank you to our parents and families for your support and partnership in the education of your children. I have valued your support as we build a supporting and nurturing school community. I believe that together we can further develop a school community that caters to the needs and interests of our students. A school community that believes in itself and all of the wonderful achievements of our young people, A school community that does not put barriers or excuses in the way, but that works hard and values what our students can achieve.

My sincerest congratulations go to every student for their application and effort this year. On behalf of all the staff at Chester Hill High School, I would like to wish all parents and students a very safe and happy festive season.

Maria O'Harae

Principal

IEC REPORT

As 2019 comes to a close, the IEC bids farewell to 91 students who are moving on in their educational journeys. Some will continue on to Chester Hill High School but many will move onto different educational settings. We wish them well and thank them for their dedication and commitment to learning while at Chester Hill IEC.

This year has seen many changes to the IEC: new faces and new spaces. Several new initiatives have been implemented this year from our hardworking team of teachers and SLSOs. This term, the Project Based Learning Team have continued to maintain and update the project that saw the refurbishing of the IEC Toilets. In week 6 we held the grand opening of the toilets which was officiated by our Deputy Principal, **Ms Nair**, and the IEC Head Teacher, **Mr Maharaj**.

Furthermore, students have been engaged in various activities throughout the term that have strengthened their



communication skills. **Mr Ingram** took a group of 10 students to a Futures Pathways event run by Creating Chances where students developed their goals and plans for the coming years. **Mr Toms** took a group of students to the Inter-IEC Oratory Competition at Bankstown Senior College. Our school was represented by **Alisa Jabeyra** and **Jessie Pham** who moved the audience with their rhetoric skills.

One of the most significant events of the term was the History Incursion which was organised by **Mr Ingram** and **Ms Sandland**. In week 7, all IEC students attended a presentation in the hall from the Koomurri Aboriginal Organisation. The



presentation included a didgeridoo performance, storytelling, an artefact and weaponry display, Aboriginal dance performances and traditional face painting. Students gained a much deeper understanding of Aboriginal history and culture, saying that the incursion was 'magical', 'eye-opening' and 'so important'.

Mr Ocampo

RUN BEYOND UPDATE - THE FINISH LINE...AND BEYOND!

Sunday, 24 November was a satisfying day for the students who participated in The Run Beyond Project. It was a day that saw two terms of hard work and perseverance come to fruition as each one of these inspiring young people completed the Goal Race that they had been striving towards for so long.

For the past few months, **Mustafa Alizada, Tommy Do, Zeba Jaffari, Ali Zada Jafari, Irfan Mohammadi, Asad Rabbani, Benafsha Rezaie, Abraham Saadie, Abou Zar Sayah, and Shogufa Sirat** had remained at school on Friday afternoons to participate in the program designed not only to prepare them for this event, but also to develop capacities around goal-setting, commitment and resilience, which they will use beyond the finish line and beyond running.

As the event approached, students grew in confidence as their training yielded improvements which saw them able to complete progressively longer runs, bringing the goal closer and closer.

Race morning dawned with a buzz of excitement and nervous energy as we all made our way to the start at The Entrance's Memorial Park, where the students helped each other to pin on their race bibs and encouraged one another with last-minute pep talks.



The Run Beyond Project began at Chester Hill High School in 2015, and has since expanded to 12 other schools. This race was somewhat of a milestone as it saw our 100th graduate. Another milestone was achieved by Shogufa Sirat who became the first female Run Beyond participant to complete a half-marathon (that's 21.1km for the uninitiated!) as her Goal Race!



Graduation is based on completion of the program and the Goal Race, which is always held at a public fun run. On this occasion, many thanks go to Race Director Christine Laing and the hardworking team at the Central Coast Half-Marathon and 10km Fun Run for their ongoing support of The Run Beyond Project.

Well done to all students involved. I admire the dedication you showed throughout the program, and I hope you use the skills you learnt throughout it, beyond the finish line and into the future.

Mr Criniti



As the starting gun fired, the students set off at their own sensible paces, confident in the knowledge that the commitment they had shown over time had adequately prepared them to complete this goal. It was challenging, and there were sore legs afterwards, but also satisfied smiles, spread wide across their faces.

Throughout the event, the students enjoyed engaging with some of the 1200 other runners in attendance, and commented on the supportive nature of the running community. They also enjoyed the opportunity to meet The Run Beyond Project students from Narrabeen Sports High who were participating in this running festival as their Goal Race.

SEIZING THE MOMENT

For **Tommy Do** it was a valuable lesson in showing initiative.

The Year 10 Chester Hill High School student was visiting the Australian head office of PayPal, the global online financial services company, as part of ASPIRE's Degrees at Work program.

After listening to Libby Roy, PayPal's Managing Director welcome students and share her career story, Tommy's hand shot straight up. Could he do work experience at PayPal? There was a moment's silence. All eyes were on Ms Roy as the students waited for the reply. The definitive 'Yes' that followed was met with smiles all round. Tommy's assertiveness had paid off.



The Degrees at Work program gives Year 10 students from ASPIRE partner schools the opportunity to see a modern workplace in action. They observe the different skills, talents and functions an organisation requires and the wide-ranging jobs and careers a degree can offer. Students have a rare opportunity to chat with professional employees from all walks of life, who share their experiences navigating an often 'zigzag' journey into university and onto a career path. For Tommy, Degrees at Work gave him the confidence to take an additional step to not just visit a workplace, but be part of one.

As Henry Phung, Team Assistant for PayPal said, "Tommy made a really good impression on Libby. Sometimes you need to be someone who is willing to go for it. If you don't ask, you don't get anything. All kudos to Tommy for asking!"

For Tommy, it was an opportunity too good to miss.

"It's a big corporation," he said. "You don't get to go to a huge IT tech company often. I didn't want to go to a large supermarket chain for work experience. There's something special about seeing how a huge tech company works".

Tommy's work experience began weeks before he entered PayPal's offices. With the cut-off date for submitting a work experience application through the school looming, there was substantial administration that had to be completed by Tommy, the school and PayPal before Tommy could start. While he had help from his teacher, most of his contact with PayPal occurred during school holidays when he was on his

own. Learning to be more formal with his emails was one of the first new work skills he acquired!

"Before I went to PayPal, funnily enough, I got rejected like 14 times from other (workplaces)," said Tommy. "The PayPal thing was never guaranteed to begin with, as obviously there was a deadline and a time limit for me to hand (the application) in. It took time, but then I think people saw the light in the tunnel instead of rejection. My friends only saw...the cool experience... that I was so lucky or whatever...but they didn't see the work that went behind to achieve that".

PayPal set to work devising a comprehensive schedule for Tommy's work experience week. They were keen to make sure he was immersed in how the business worked as much as possible, and not be relegated to a back room counting paperclips. They wanted to give him every opportunity to see the multiple layers of jobs and careers that exist in a large, cutting-edge organisation.

The week was filled with going to various departmental meetings, learning about the culture, how organisational processes work and what people do in their jobs. He joined an offsite planning workshop with account executives but found it a bit overwhelming. "Too much numbers!" he laughed.

"Everyone has been really nice and helpful and have given me good advice. I am basically here to observe. It's been a pretty good experience. I actually don't have an interest in IT – any of my friends would have loved to be here! IT is not my thing. I'm basically interested in the business side of things. ...but the experience has been about having the mindset of work life, the skills aspect and how (employees) do their job. I get a broad view into their day-to-day work. It's like looking up multiple jobs in one week."

"Getting exposure to the different fields of work that we have in PayPal is probably something that could influence if he likes that field or not (in the future). I know even when I was a kid, I had no idea what I wanted to do, something like this would have helped influence my career path," said Henry.

Despite not being interested in a specific field at PayPal, Tommy believes it is still valuable for students to experience a range of workplaces.

"Definitely. I know some of my mates went through work experience and they thought they wanted to do that job for a living, but when they actually experienced it, that didn't want to, so that kind of helped them with career deciding. Secondly, it builds a basis for fundamentals of what skills you need in a workplace, like teamwork, communication and all that. In school you don't really get taught those things, or how to present a presentation, or go to meetings, or how to brainstorm," he said.

Henry added, "It's important for Tommy to see what PayPal is all about, our culture and what our working dynamics are like. Each workplace will have their own dynamic and this is just one example for him. I don't want to set the expectation that all workplaces are like this, every workplace is different. At PayPal we really value team and collaboration, so we try

and create a great working culture, just to help motivate employees and team members to do their best. Morale is very important as well."

Henry said PayPal employees are motivated to "give back" and really enjoy giving their time to be involved in ASPIRE's workplace programs. Seeing the impact that just talking with students and answering their questions has on how they see their future is powerful.

For Tommy, he's in two minds about going to university, but it's early days.

"I think I will see where life takes me because I am changing every day, you know what I mean, I'm not the same person."

"This experience will look great on my resume – it's PayPal!" says Tommy. "Think about it – if you're an employer and you saw he went to PayPal for one week and he's still a kid, I'd be impressed with myself if I was an employer!"

Rizki Deni

Committee Chair

Year 9 SRC

Japanese Film Festival

On Friday, 22 November, the Year 10 and 11 Japanese classes attended the annual Japanese Film Festival at Event Cinemas, George Street. This event provides students the opportunity to expand their Japanese language skills and cultural knowledge.



Prior to watching the film, the students were quizzed on their Japanese culture knowledge through a 'Maru' (correct) and 'batsu' (incorrect) game. Students then watched the film "Bento Harassment" which depicts the adversities of a single-mother living on a small island off Tokyo, and her struggle maintaining a relationship with her rebellious daughter through daily 'bento' (lunch) boxes.

Students thoroughly enjoyed watching the film and later ate their own Japanese 'bento' boxes at Hyde Park.

Ms Sobrevega



HELMSMAN COMMUNITY PROJECT - VISIT TO HARDI AGED CARE, GUILDFORD

On Tuesday, 3 December, the Year 9 Helmsman girls visited the Hardi Age Care, Guildford as part of their Community Project. The Helmsman girls spent time with the local residents at the Age Care centre by talking with them, helping serve morning tea and participating in trivia quizzes.

The girls made a significant impact through building a strong rapport with residents from similar ethnic backgrounds, and brought smiles to everyone's faces.

The development of this Community Project enabled the girls to build crucial team-work skills and improve their self-regulation and resilience.

A huge thank you to the organisers, nurses and residents at Hardi Age Care for providing students with the opportunity to learn more about the local elderly citizens. Well done **Juliet Aonga, Wendy Dao, Selina Malabanan, Bianca Martinovic, Serasini Sadrata, Isabella Ramsey** and **Melinda Tran**.

Ms Sobrevega



MOVEMBER - WE NEED TO TALK

Movember is an awareness campaign held annually in the month of November to bring attention to men's health issues by growing moustaches. Research shows that the main areas affecting men's health are mental health, prostate cancer, testicular cancer, physical activity and suicide prevention.

During November, a number of our male teachers supported the campaign by growing their own moustaches. The SRC at Chester Hill High School have been spreading awareness for Movember throughout the month with posters, taking pictures of Cheso students sporting a moustache and making regular announcements on the common health issues faced by men in our community. These announcements have shared some shocking statistics on men's health, including the sad fact that males account for 75% of suicides and that 1 in 6 Australian men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime.

Research has shown that men try to deal with their health issues alone and as a result, these issues often go unspoken and may be overlooked. Movember is a great campaign that promotes awareness of men's health and helps break down the stigma to make it easier to talk about it. This is why Movember is so important among our Chester Hill High School community. If you want to donate or participate in the Movember movement you can always go to the Movember website to find out more <https://au.movember.com/mens-health/general>.



Naziah Mohibi

Year 7 SRC

WRITERS' CLUB

Throughout the year, 14 Year 8 students have participated in the Writers' Group Workshops. They have been working on writing their own imaginative piece while also editing and perfecting their creative writing skills.

To celebrate their hard work, a Morning Tea was organised for students to invite their families and read excerpts from their stories. It was so great to see the students get up in front of an audience and be able to share what they have been working so hard on this year.

In recognition of their participation and completion of this program, all students received a Principal's Award. It was amazing to see the development and growth of all these students.

Congratulations and well done.

Ms Hughes



PDHPE'S HOLIDAY MESSAGE

As we head into the holiday season, **Mr Bratic** and the PDHPE faculty would like to remind everyone of the benefits of exercise.

Stay active over the holidays everyone.

And stay safe.

See you in 2020!

