



Volume 3—5th March 2021

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Principal's Message

Special points of interest:

- My Story
- Zone Swimming Carnival
- Duke of Ed
- Vaccinations
- L-Driver workshop
- P&C

SRC induction

It was a pleasure to induct out junior SRC students on Monday 22 February. Sadly, parents and visitors were unable to attend live, so a recording was made and uploaded to our website. I do hope that parents were able to gain a feel for the ceremony. Students were certainly proud of themselves. Can I thank Ms Jennifer Rhodes who leads the student representative council. She is certainly guiding these young people with some terrific ideas, paving the way for their leadership development and teamwork skills.



Chess Club resurrection

It's a world game - indeed a sport – and has been around for centuries. Having seen the “Queen's Gambit” in the holidays I am reminded how compelling and absorbing the tactics of playing chess are. I am pleased to say that the Chess Club has been resurrected under the guidance of Mr Garek Chung. Students have jumped at the opportunity and a lively, enthusiastic bunch of chess aspirants are on their way.

ZOOM parent/teacher evening

Our first ZOOM parent/teacher evening for Year 12 was held on Tuesday evening, 23 February. While there were some technical glitches (such as one or two cameras not working and some parents unable to access the technology) I think it is fair to say that it was very successful. I had some lovely emails from parents saying that they found the experience more than comfortable and informative.

We had one of our administrative staff on the phone receiving calls from parents up until 5 pm which turned out to be a good strategy so that help could be given over the phone or a booking made for an alternative time.

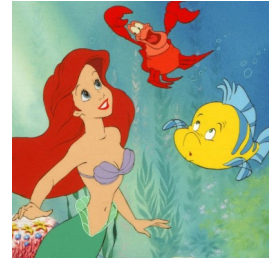
I want to acknowledge and thank our terrific staff (teachers, administrative staff and technicians) who worked through the technicalities and found the whole experience a positive one.

Your feedback continues to be welcome on this.



Musical for 2021 – yes it's happening

I'm pleased to remind you that we will have a musical for 2021! The production of "The Little Mermaid" has started and, as always, there is much excitement and anticipation. The musical is such a high point for us in our calendar. Missing out in 2020 was disappointing for so many students and staff – so there is even more enthusiasm now, if that's possible.



International Women's Day – March 8 2021

Each year, worldwide, International Women's Day is celebrated to acknowledge and celebrate the achievement of women and raise awareness of pertinent issues around women's health, wellbeing, status, work and more. This year's theme is Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID 19 World.



Some might ask why IWD is celebrated. The answer is simple: we are not there yet.

As usual some of our female prefects will go to a local breakfast to hear speeches from some prominent women.

You can look no further than the one and only Michelle Obama whose comment "When they go low I go high" for a mantra well worth practising in life.

Regards
Vicki Brewer
Principal

My Story

My journey to teaching did not follow the direct high school to university to school path. In fact the journey to any of my career choices have not been planned. After completing my HSC I accepted a place at University studying Communications with a major in Journalism and a minor in Public Relations. During my study I learned that I loved to write and to be able to represent and help people in positive ways with clear and effective written communication skills.

My love of writing however was not outweighed by my love of travel and so after graduating from University I bought myself a large backpack and a one-way ticket to London via Canada. I travelled the world for three years and had many wonderful experiences and made some fabulous friends along the way. My work life while I was away was primarily in London where I was employed in a multitude of jobs that enabled me to live and continue to travel. I worked mostly in retail and hospitality with my most cherished position being my time living and working in a London pub in the Borough of Kensington.

When I reluctantly returned to Sydney I was in limbo. I had lots of amazing life experience but no experience in my university trained discipline. I also had quite a few bills to pay from my European adventure so I needed a job, and fast. I drew on the experience that I did have and ventured back into the retail world. This led me to many happy years of employment as a Store Manager and then an Internal Auditor and Induction Trainer. This latter role sparked my interest in training and education and I decided to enrol in a Secondary English Teaching degree at Macquarie University.

When I graduated I was fortuitous enough to receive some casual teaching at Castle Hill High School and here I have stayed. I feel very lucky to do the job that I do and am so happy that I decided to take the leap and re-train as a teacher even though it took me five long years of managing part-time study, work and parenting. I love being a part of our small country town and teaching young people about the joys of literature, unpacking the places stories can take us to and the experiences we encounter in them.

Kylie Nelson

Currently reading: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.



Zone Swimming

Date: Wednesday 23rd February 2021
Venue: Blacktown Aquatics Centre

The Hills Zone Swimming Carnival was held at Blacktown Aquatics Centre on Wednesday 23rd February 2021, with 7 schools sending competitors on the day. Castle Hill High School sent a team of 51 swimmers, ranging from Year 7 to year 12 students.

On the day it was clear that everyone turned up to compete, with some fantastic individual and team efforts (relays) displayed across the team. At the conclusion of the carnival, Castle Hill High School was awarded the 2nd place award, with 1,426 team points, coming in second only to James Ruse.

At the completion of the carnival, CHHS was recognized with three Age Champions;

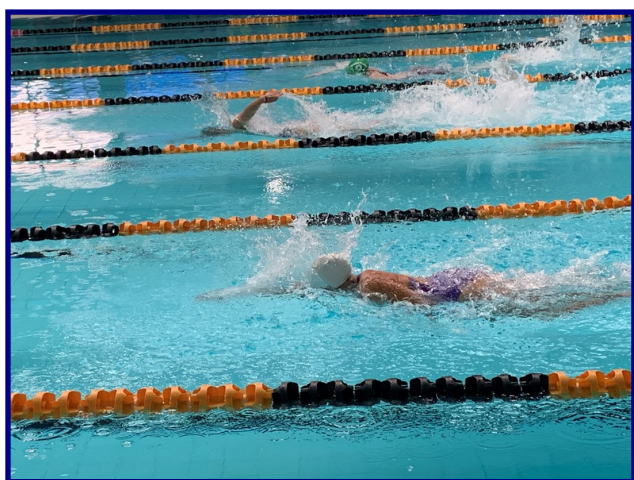
Pyper Marchant – Under 14s Girls
Esther Bonser – Under 15s Girls
Alina Qureshi – Under 16s Girls

I would like to congratulate these girls on their fantastic performances, as well as congratulate all students of CHHS on not only their effort in the water, but their behavior on the day.

I would also like to thank Miss Humphreys, Mr Rodi, Mr Jackson and Mr Conistis for their support on the day.

Mr Pearn

Head Teacher of Sport



Vaccinations

2021 Vaccination Clinics at Castle Hill High School

| Date | Year Group | Vaccine |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---|
| Friday 12 th March – 9am | Year 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7, 1st dose HPV • Year 7, dTpa • Catch up vaccinations for Year 8 students |
| Friday 4 th June – 9am | Year 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 Meningococcal ACWY • Catch up vaccinations for Year 7, 8 and 11 students <p>*Any year 7 student who was absent or missed returning their consent form at the 1st visit will be caught up throughout the year.</p> |
| Friday 8 th October – 9am | Year 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7, 2nd dose HPV • Catch up vaccinations for Year 7, 8, 10 and 11 students. |

On Friday 12th March NSW Health will be running the first of three vaccination clinics at Castle Hill High School. All **year 7 students** have been issued with a letter and a Parent Information Pack which contains a consent form, and an information sheet/privacy statement. For students to take part in the program, a completed and signed consent form must be returned to Mrs Heinrich (Library) by **Wednesday 10th March**. Students who did not receive a vaccination consent form must see Mrs Heinrich to collect one.

Year 8 students who commenced HPV vaccinations last year but did not complete the course, may be offered catch up doses at these clinics. Students who received their first HPV dose at their GP will be advised to complete the course with their GP.

Vaccination consent forms for students in **Year 10** will distributed in Term 2.

Proud to deliver



Duke of Edinburgh Award

After an exceptional 2020 we look forward to getting back into some 'normal' activity - so please take a moment to read this short & sharp summary of important D of E news.

For Last year's registered students:

Adventurous Journey

- Have you received details of the adventurous journey yet? Details are out.
- Have you diarised "must attend" preparation meetings? To go on the AJ and because of some changes you **must attend meetings** on **Tuesday 2nd and 16th March** at lunchtime in P38 as well as a mandatory final briefing **Tues 30 March 3.30PM**
- Have you made a start on most of your activities? If you want to hike you need to get started.

Online Record Book (ORB) Tip

- Are your logs detailed enough? Last year some awards were revised back as the logs were not detailed enough or had copied and pasted duplicate logs. **Example:** logs rejected as each week had the same description "*basketball drills and training*". Acceptable logs: "*continued our preseason training focusing on.....*" Note: photographs are a fantastic way to record activities.

ORB App

- There is a simple and fast tool to assist you in completing you logs anytime anywhere. Visit the Google play or Apple store and search for ORB participant.

Any other queries? Come to the regular meeting Tuesdays, Week B, lunchtimes (12.45 to 1.30)

Anyone wishing to join?

- Are you 14+ years of age or Year 9+?
- Have you come to a meeting below? Note: a special information session will be held late March.
- Have you picked up an application form? Available from Ms Parker (Social science staffroom)

Regular Meeting Details

Need assistance with your award or have any questions?

- **Drop in:** Tuesdays, Week B, lunchtimes (12.45 to 1.30)
- **See** Ms Parker in Social Science staffroom

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Regular Duke of Edinburgh Award Meetings will be held in P38 at lunchtime every fortnight on Tuesday Week B. If you have any queries or would like to discuss your progress, that is the time to do it.

Additionally, all students who are currently enrolled in the Duke of Edinburgh Award need to have downloaded the BAND app on their phone and obtained the joining code to ensure they get reminders of meetings. Please see me for the joining code (valid only for 48 hours)

Nicole Parker

Social Science



FREE WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND SUPERVISORS OF LEARNER DRIVERS

Helping learner drivers become safer drivers

The session will offer practical advice about:

- Current driving rules and requirements for L and P platers
- How learners benefit from supervised on-road driving
- How you can help make learning to drive a safe and positive experience

Thursday 25 March, 2021

6.00 - 7.15pm, On line Zoom workshop

You do not need to install Zoom on your device in order to participate. A live link with login details will be emailed to you when you book in.

Bookings essential: Ph:9843 0145 or email: avernicos@thehills.nsw.gov.au

Presented in partnership with the NSW Government.



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THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

Uniform Shop



The beginning of Term two is the changeover for winter uniform. Girls need a skirt and blouse either long or short sleeved.

Boys may have long trousers either grey (junior) or blue (senior) and long sleeve shirts are available.

Online orders are always available either before school or at recess on the days the Uniform Shop is open. We would like to see many more of these picked up as we can have up to two boxes of orders waiting to be claimed.

Opening hours for Term 1 2021

Tuesdays and Fridays 8.15 to 11.30 until week 10.

Then the plan is to open 3pm to 5pm with appointments during week 10. We will also be open the usual Tuesday and Friday mornings. A link will be provided in the next newsletter.

Margaret Pritchard
Uniform Shop

CANTEEN

Cruiser pies are currently out of stock, we have Four'n Twenty Traveller pies. We are expecting Cruiser back in stock soon.

Calendar

Week 7A 2021

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Monday 8th March | Year 12 Chemistry Assessment (Dhar) Year 7 Drumming Workshop Year 9 PASS Bronze Medallion Year 8 PYLO talk |
| Tuesday 9th March | Year 7 Drumming Workshop |
| Wednesday 10th March | Peer Support Session 4 |
| Thursday 11th March | Year 12 HSC Chemistry Assessment (Tinsley) Year 9 Pass Bronze Medallion |
| Friday 12th March | Year 12 HSC Chemistry Assessment (Grace) Year 7 Vaccinations |

Week 8B 2021

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Monday 15th March | Year 10 Pass Bronze Medallion Year 9 Pass Bronze Medallion |
| Tuesday 16th March | Year 10 Pass Bronze Medallion Year 9 Pass Bronze Medallion |
| Wednesday 17th March | CHHS Athletics Carnival—Blacktown P&C Meeting |
| Thursday 18th March | Year 9 Pass Bronze Medallion Year 7 Scripture |
| Friday 19th March | Harmony Day Sydney West Open Boys and Girls Basketball Year 10 Pass Bronze Medallion |

Week 9A 2021

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Monday 22nd March | Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement Year 10 Drama Commedia workshop |
| Tuesday 23rd March | Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement Year 10 Pass Bronze Medallion |
| Wednesday 24th March | Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement Science Engineering Challenge yr 9 & 10 Year 10 Pass Bronze Medallion |
| Thursday 25th March | Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement |
| Friday 25th March | Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement |