

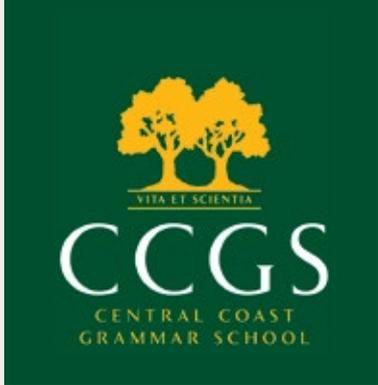
BUNDARA

A magazine of the Central Coast Grammar School Community **Issue 48** 2017



CCGS
CENTRAL COAST
GRAMMAR SCHOOL





BUNDARA

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From the Board

The Annual General Meeting was held on 25 May and we reflected on another very successful year. The school continues to build its reputation on the national stage as a truly comprehensive high performing independent school. In all of our areas of endeavour we are seeing significant and continuing improvement. Our academic results in the Junior School, Middle School and Senior College have continued to grow year upon year leading to an outstanding HSC performance in 2016. What is most encouraging is that high levels of academic performance are also apparent from K-12 so we can be optimistic that our performance will continue to be high.

A number of important changes to the Board were made at the AGM. For some time the Governance Committee looked at modernising the Constitution. There was nothing radical about this process and the changes that were accepted quite simply reflect a modernising of language and terms within the Constitution.

Every Board goes through periods of transition and renewal which is both exciting and energising. I wish to take this opportunity to thank John Dyer, Tim Cullen and Margie Haseltine, who have all tendered their resignations from the Board. Their commitment, experience and expertise in serving the school over many years is to be commended. Following an intensive selection process, we welcome to the Board: Tricia Cotterell who is a director at Fortunity Group and a past parent, Daphne Wayland an experienced governance professional, business executive and current parent and Kylie Tritton who is a solicitor at Peninsula Law.

I'm pleased to report that Central Coast Grammar School finds itself in an excellent position. Thank you to our Headmaster Bill Low and the school staff, teaching and non-teaching, for the hard work they do in making our school what it is today. Thank you also to parents and students for their continued support.

Ken A. Jolly, AM

Chairman of the School Board

Cover Image: Jordan Cameron (Year 12) in the new senior Drama production, The Great Gatsby.

From the Headmaster



Central Coast Grammar School is committed to providing an outstanding education to our 1250 students. Naturally achieving this requires excellent teachers, enthusiastic students and robust facilities that support and enhance modern teaching and learning practices.

Over the past 12 - 18 months we've invested considerable effort in exploring ways we can improve the learning environment, define the characteristics that articulate next generation learners and embed the essential digital literacy skills and tools students will require in a more connected and globalised workforce. Our first project within this enormous task was the refurbishment and redesign of the Kindergarten rooms in 2016. The new rooms have provided for very different types of pedagogy, enhanced individual and group learning and offered a fun and engaging early learning environment for our youngest students.

The next stage of the project will be the refurbishment and extension of the English and History block (B Block). You can read more about what's planned on pages 4 and 5. The refurbishment is part of our broader Master Planning process and is not a standalone idiosyncratic approach to classroom renovation, but encompasses purposeful consideration of the size and shape of the school in the years to come. Our school buildings need to provide the conditions that enable our teachers to deliver, and students to attain, the educational outcomes and goals detailed in our *Next Generation Teaching and Learning* strategic plan. We regard the refurbishment of the English and History classrooms as stage two of a whole school approach and I will be consulting more with you about our Master Planning process during 2017 and beyond.

I was recently asked in an interview what I am most proud of as Headmaster of CCGS. The answer is an easy one - our community! There is something very special about a child attending school in the same community in which they live and having parents active in the school and the local community. As we develop and enhance the physical landscape and infrastructure of the school, I'm committed to maintaining the strong community focus and spirit which is so unique to CCGS.

At the Annual General Meeting, I presented our key highlights and achievements from 2016. I invite you to take a look at the Headmaster's Report which details what we've achieved over the past 12 months and where we are headed. You can read it online on the school website.

William Low

Headmaster/Chief Executive Officer

B-Block refurbishment:

Feel different. Think different.



Architect rendering of new design

The refurbishment and extension of B Block (English, History/Geography) will commence during the 2017 September/October school holidays and it's expected the new facility will be ready for the beginning of the 2018 school year. Existing classrooms are being purposely re-designed to create innovative learning environments which will provide increased student engagement and independence within a high-tech digital literacy capability.

The rooms will be larger and provide digital collaboration zones and areas for small group learning hubs. Operable walls will be installed between every second classroom to allow teachers and students to work collaboratively throughout the building. Larger classrooms will take in the current corridors and café style windows on the ground floor will create a sense of the classroom being inside and outside at the same time.

A range of furniture from more traditional to soft furnishings and high seats will be incorporated into the building. A film studio and editing suite will increase opportunities in the area of multi-media tech studies and an awning erected outside the classrooms will provide protection from the weather. Alongside the refurbishment, a two storey extension

will be built and will include a new classroom and a History/Geography staffroom, as well as staff amenities and a lift.

"A critical element in the design of the building has been to accommodate 'Next Generation Teaching and Learning' which is a key plank of our strategic plan," said Headmaster, Bill Low. "Teachers have been undertaking a great deal of professional learning in digital literacy and in Harvard University's Teaching for Understanding Diploma Course. These new methodologies are the way of the future and traditional classrooms inhibit the capacity to organise learning at the optimum level."

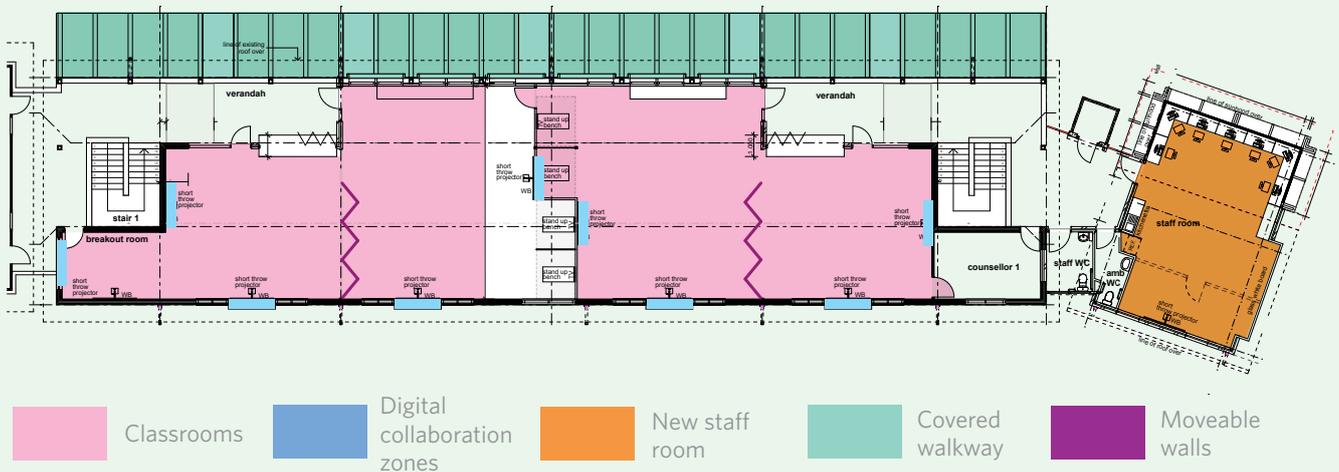
"The new building will help teachers facilitate current and future learning needs of students. I am sure you will be excited to see the building completed and there will be an opportunity for all members of the community to have a walk through."

Stevens Construction have been appointed builders after a competitive tendering process. Stevens were also the builders of the Performing Arts Centre. The school takes pride in appointing a highly qualified local builder as this provides work opportunities for local trades and suppliers.

Ground Floor



Top Level



Opening hearts & homes

Three CCGS families share their rewarding, and sometimes surprising experience of opening their homes and their hearts to visiting students from Japan and China.



The Hofer family and Haruka from Ueda Nishi School, Japan

I couldn't believe just how much, and how quickly, we became attached to our house guest. Hosting a student from Japan allowed us to become cultural ambassadors and 'show off' Australia and the Central Coast. In the process, we gained a whole new appreciation of our own community and way of life. We came to understand that some of the basic things we take for granted are a rarity for some.

Initially, we were a little nervous that Haruka was going to end up bored in our home given that our children were not of a similar age group, but that was a worry over nothing! The different ages did not matter at all, and it was lovely to see our two children interacting so naturally with her, and vice versa. Both our kids felt like they had another sibling and learned a lot about Japanese culture. In return, they loved sharing more about Australia and our way of life with her.

Our children learnt a lot from Haruka, and she was truly living the day-to-day experience of the typical Australian family - juggling sport, different meal choices, and different family dynamics, which were all new and valuable experiences for her.

-Michaela Hofer, parent to Lily (Year 6) and Ben (Year 4)



The Coney Family and Weu Zepeng from Jingyuan School, China

The experience of having a young stranger in our house who obviously had to adapt a bit to our culture while we had to understand his, was an enjoyable and educational experience.

Although he was only with us five days, to see how visibly sad he was at leaving was a testament to the success of the program and to the strong bonds that formed between Weu and our son Matthew (Year 9).

Hosting is a great experience for everyone - especially the visiting student. Staying with a local family is an essential part of the entire experience.

Naturally, the more the host family engages with the experience, the more everyone will get out of it. Getting a mutual taste of Australian/international life, and learning how typical families go about their everyday life in a different culture is incredibly enriching and is all part of what makes hosting such an engaging and highly recommended experience for everyone.

- Michael Coney parent to Matthew (Year 9)



The Pearce Family and Masayuki from Ueda Nishi School, Japan

As a family with younger children, Masayuki brought a completely different energy into our home, and it was fascinating to have a teenager in the house for the first time.

The gifts we received from Japan were a source of fascination for us, especially for our eight-year-old daughter Ruby. The unique range of exotic foods and sweets Masayuki shared were new to anything we'd tried before and gave our kids a glimpse of the world beyond the Central Coast.

One of the most unexpected surprises for us was the opportunity to meet a range of other CCGS families who were also hosting students and whom we may not have ever had the chance to meet. It was so nice for us to make some new friends outside our peer group and we all bonded over the shared experience.

While the language barrier was a little tricky at times, it wasn't much of an issue at all. What we couldn't communicate in words, we did through music, dancing and mime - which the kids loved!

- Samantha Watson, parent to Ruby (Year 3) and Zak (Year 6)



Sue Band

International Programs
Coordinator



Developing intercultural and global competencies is becoming increasingly important in our personal and professional lives. The CCGS International Program enables our students and visiting students to become more globally aware, grow in independence, handle challenging perspectives and enhance understanding of different cultures and community standards as active global citizens.

The benefits of our international programs span all subject areas and ages across the school. When our students

return from exchange they bring a level of cultural diversity back into the classroom. When our visitors arrive and learn and interact alongside CCGS students, it culturally enriches the entire school community.

Essential to the program are the CCGS families who welcome our interstate and international students into their home. The opportunities and benefits of visiting students to immerse themselves in an entirely foreign culture, or even experience a different way of life altogether within their country, are insurmountable. Our host families are so fundamental to the student experience, and many friendships and lasting bonds are formed along the way. The longevity of these friendships means that our communities become connected and develop a wider network of relationships.

Interested in hosting a student from overseas or interstate? Contact Sue on sue.band@ccgs.nsw.edu.au

THE GREAT GATSBY

Central Coast Grammar School has always produced an exciting annual school production with large cast numbers and an abundance of singing and dancing. This year the literary classic, *The Great Gatsby*, was brought to the stage by senior Drama students in a new style of performance devoted solely to the extension of the dramatic arts at CCGS. The performance was met with much acclaim and was reflective of contemporary theatre staged in Sydney and Melbourne.





"The new production provides a theatrical opportunity for our senior students to stretch themselves like never before," said Mr Lee Fleming. "For those who see acting as their core skill (and possible future career), it's a chance to perform a mature, sophisticated and challenging piece in front of an audience."

Directed with traits of ancient Greek theatre mixed into a contemporary, stylised form, *Gatsby* was an entirely new approach for students.

"The challenge was not only understanding a new style of theatre but the physical demands of remaining in character for the duration of the performance was also intense because almost

all the cast were on stage for the whole 90 minutes. The stage and set extended to the orchestra pit and students were much closer and more intimate to the audience than they are used to," said Lee.

The story, despite its famous images of decadence, is a sad one - a tragedy that reflects flaws in humanity and demands a lot from its actors. "We certainly have the talent here at CCGS, and *Gatsby* allowed students to tackle mature themes, new ideas and exciting new ways of working in the theatre," said Lee. "Drama has the potential to make one feel, think and react and I'm so proud at how well they all stepped up regarding performance and commitment."



Next level collaboration

Today's students are 'digital natives' and 21st-century learners. They're growing up in a world where digital devices have existed their entire lives. We need to look beyond traditional classroom processes, structures and spaces and reimagine classroom designs that enhance next generation learning.

The English Department trialled new Digital Collaboration Zones (DCZ) to offer exciting possibilities for collaboration. "Our students are the inventors of the future so we need to ensure they thrive in learning," says Damon Cooper, Director of Teaching and Learning. "We've acknowledged our digitised youth and considered how we could find more creative and customised ways to get students collaborating and thinking with more engagement and curiosity. Our solution was to introduce new digital tools within a more suitable collaborative environment."

What are Digital Collaboration Zones?

Each Digital Collaboration Zone consists of a whiteboard for students to brainstorm big ideas, laptops for individual research and large screens so students can bounce ideas off each other and work together on digitally collaborative projects.

How do DCZ's benefit learning?

"English students have always worked in cooperative groups and they still require the same skills they have always needed," says Damon. "The challenge for teachers is to continue to facilitate purposeful collaboration in our changing learning environment."

"We're finding students are more engaged because the learning is

personalised, interactive and integrated into their everyday life. By drawing on their digital skills and the digital tools they use every day, we're bringing their online world and online skills into their classroom and making the learning challenge more relevant to them. We're moving them from online communicators to online collaborators."

The DCZ's do more than just digitalise group work, they create brand new ways to collaborate. Students can quickly and easily find information online and share it with the group, they can see each other's research and can bring their ideas together to create a response. "When I can see what other people in my group are thinking, I can reflect on my own ideas more or offer suggestions on things they may not consider," said one Year 9 student. "It's a better experience, and I feel like we're all on the same page."

Not only do the DCZ's help students but they assist teachers to make learning visible for assessment. "We can easily assess student's level of understanding because their train of thought is evident," says Damon. "We can see what's challenging them and how they are developing their ideas and can provide immediate on-the-spot feedback."

Why does digital collaboration matter?

It's a big, ever-changing and connected world and collaboration is a required skillset for the future. The quality of students thinking processes and content understanding improves when they can discuss and share



ideas with others. These skills are important in the classroom and critical as students enter a more globalised workplace.

The existing barriers of time and location are becoming redundant with the digital exchange of ideas and knowledge across communities, countries and continents. "Collaboration is an important function of many professions," says Damon. "Our students may one day work for many employers at the same time, doing many jobs and be required to collaborate with colleagues from all over the world- whom they may never meet in person! Enhancing the communication and interpersonal skills required to work in this way is so important for 21st-century thinking and workforce readiness."

Support for DCZ's from our school community

In 2016 the CCGS Parents and Friends introduced a new initiative to promote innovation in teaching and learning by providing grants totalling \$12,000. The English Department was successful in securing some of this funding to expand its Digital Collaboration Zones. The Zones have been so successful that they are now being architecturally designed and included more substantially into the new learning spaces as part of the B Block refurbishment and upgrade (see page 4 and 5).

"It's fantastic that the funding supplied through the P&F grant has allowed us to prototype the Zones and now hardwire them into every English and History classroom on a much bigger scale," said Damon.

"The P&F grants have gone a long way in building the learning capacity of teachers and students across the entire school," says Damon. "Investing in innovation fosters innovation and nurtures new and emerging approaches to teaching, learning and the learning environment which can only benefit our students."



Excellent results for the Class of 2016

Our Year 12 students are engaged and vital participants in the school community and a very active part of making the CCGS culture what it is. The Class of 2016 achieved

excellent results and although there was a strong trend towards the STEM subjects, there was also an appreciation and high achievement in the areas of Arts and Music.

CCGS was ranked 70th in the Sydney Morning Herald's Top 100 School's Report

This year, five students were honoured in the NSW Board of Studies All Rounders List and a high level of academic performance was apparent across all learning departments in the school. A number of students achieved very high ATARs in excess of 98, with Dux Yeji Kim scoring 99.7.

Encore

Matthew Buckland (drums), **Georgia Munster** (voice) and **Eliza Paterson** (voice) were nominated for inclusion in **ENCORE**, which features a program of outstanding performances and compositions held annually at the Sydney Opera House.



ARTEExpress

Caitlin Darnell was nominated for inclusion in **ARTEExpress** and **Eliza Paterson** was selected for **ARTEExpress**. Congratulations Eliza on being selected for ARTEXPRESS and nominated for ENCORE.



InTech

Imogen Thomas's beautiful day bed was nominated for **InTECH** which is an exhibition that covers all Industrial Technology focus areas – Timber Products and Furniture, Automotive, Electronics, Graphics, Metal and Engineering, and Multimedia.



PEG WHITE AWARD: Society & Culture

Sophie Totonjian received the Peg White Award from the Society and Culture Association for the most outstanding Personal Interest Project out of a candidature of 4,700 students.



Meet 'The Volpes'

You may not have heard of The Volpes just yet, but this up-and-coming band from CCGS are starting to make a bit of noise around town as they grow in experience and share their unique style of psychedelic rock with Coast punters.

Max Sturm (lead vocals, guitar and keyboards), Conor Hingerty (vocals, guitar), Liam Thomas (bass guitar) and Cooper Storey (drums) are all Year 11 Music students at CCGS. The boys shared love of music bonded them early in their school days - playing music together on and off since Year 5.

"We all study elective music together, so it's a fairly important aspect of our lives both inside and outside of school," said Conor. "When we're not playing music in class, we're jamming in lunchtime and after school. We're so fortunate that CCGS has such fantastic facilities for us as a band to practice, create, and perform. Music is a remarkable asset to the school, and we're so thankful to everyone who supports us."

The Volpes (Latin for 'the fox') will be heading into the recording studio soon to record some new songs. "We're currently writing new material, and we hope to release an EP or album soon. With a few more gigs under our belt we'll be able to share more of our original music with audiences," said Conor.



You can follow The Volpes on facebook:
www.facebook.com/TheVolpes/

Watch The Volpes original track Cosmic Fox:



Congratulations to our CCGS YIPA performers

The Volpes, together with four other groups of talented CCGS performers entertained audiences in the 2017 Youth in Performing Arts (YIPA) concert series at Laycock Street Theatre. YIPA aims to give young emerging talent the opportunity to participate in a quality program featuring all aspects of the performing arts and involves a very competitive audition process.

YIPA showcases the very best young talent on the Central Coast and we congratulate all CCGS students who performed so exceptionally.

Thank you to YIPA and Digicrew for the use of these images.



Maddy Alexander and the Central Coast Youth Orchestra



Vocal trio - Liberty Carrier, Yasmin Yusuf & Georgia Sillince (Year 12)



Kai Williamson (Year 7) performs in a vocal duet



CCGS Stage band with Aaron Carey (Year 11)

Girls Basketball bounces back

A season of big baskets, big effort and big belief has seen a resurgence in girls' Basketball at CCGS and resulted in our most successful season ever!

"We are so proud of the incredible achievement of each one of our eight girls basketball teams on making it to the semi-finals this year," said Rebecca Hockey, CCGS Girls Basketball Captain. "It's a huge accomplishment and just demonstrates the quality of our basketball program which starts early on in the Junior School."

Of the eight teams who made the semi-finals in 2016/2017, six of them proceeded through to the grand finals, and four of those teams came home victorious including the Firsts who could finally hold the shield aloft after a string of second placings and grand final losses dating back to 2011.

"At the beginning of the season I had my reservations about our chances at victory considering some of our more experienced (and taller) players were away on exchange," said Bianca Khoury, Firsts Captain. "My hesitations were misplaced though because what we lacked in height we made up for in other aspects of the game - mainly speed and agility!"

Basketball at CCGS provides a fun and competitive environment both physically and socially for girls and boys. The positive sporting behaviour displayed both on and off the court has made basketball a very popular choice for girls.

"I am going to miss the atmosphere, the people and general positivity synonymous with the values encompassed within CCGS basketball," said Bianca. "It's a great sport, and I hope that this year's success inspires other girls considering basketball to just hit the court and have a go!"



Meet our Girls Basketball Captains and hear them reflect on their great season.



Melbourne Rugby Tour

The Boys First Rugby XV recently enjoyed a very successful short tour to Melbourne - the home of sport. The 24 boys played physical and exciting rugby against Trinity Grammar School and Melbourne Grammar School winning both games convincingly.

Whilst in Melbourne, the boys also participated in the Xavier College Rugby Sevens Tournament. The one-day tournament offered fifteen schools from across the country a fast-paced, action-packed day of thrilling rugby. After losing narrowly to Kevin's College, Toorak (who are the Victorian and Xavier Sevens' overall champions), the boys dug deep and played a gritty and determined game to take 3rd place and bring home the 'Championship Bowl'!



Declan Tancred (centre) and the team with the Championship Bowl

Sporting aspirations headed stateside

Most of us consider ourselves pretty lucky if we manage to score a couple of strikes in a game of tenpin bowling. Imagine bowling 12 strikes in a row to score the perfect score of 300! That's exactly what William Clark (Year 12) has achieved for the second time!

With over 9 years of professional coaching, practice and experience in the game, William's score certainly wasn't just a lucky fluke! "Scoring the perfect 300 is pretty difficult," said William. "It's only the second time I've been able to do it in competition!"

"I have high aspirations for my bowling career," said William. "I'd really like to pursue bowling professionally and whilst the sport is increasing in popularity in Australia, it's really big business in America. I'm hoping that after the HSC I can attend more international tournaments and gain a scholarship to study and bowl in the United States."

William is a member of the Warners Bay Bowling League, is professionally coached and is certainly a star on the rise. In his relatively short tenpin bowling career, he's made two NSW Youth Teams (Under 21), was Vice Captain of the NSW President Shield Team in 2016, and was a member of the 2016 Asian Schools Team that competed in the Asian Schools tournament in Hong Kong. He's recently been announced as the Captain of the Boys NSW President Shield Team for 2017.

"There's a bit of a push within the sport to include bowling in the Summer Olympics," said William. "Although the bid failed for inclusion into the 2020 Olympics, we're hopeful that it could make the 2024 Olympics and it's definitely a dream of mine to bowl at that elite level!"



USA Soccer scholarship for Laura

Laura Farrelly (Year 12) will be packing her bags and swapping hemispheres as she heads off to Marshall University in West Virginia, USA on a four-year soccer scholarship.

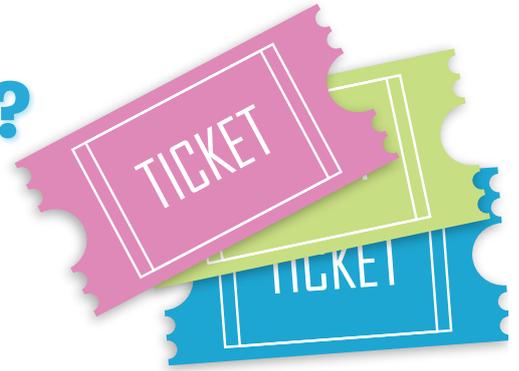
Very few international students get the chance to play Division 1 soccer in the US with only about 10 Australian girls selected each year. Laura will be spending her college days rubbing shoulders with other elite sportspeople as Marshall University is placed in the top 100 schools for 'Best College Athletics'.

"Girls soccer in the US is renowned for its physicality, speed and overall fitness which is something I'm looking to further develop and bring back to my game when I return to Australia," said Laura. "I'm excited to get started on a more extensive training schedule and higher intensity sessions. The opportunity to play games and travel around America will be a brilliant bonus."



Will you be the FINAL WINNER?

The CCGS car raffle is on for the last time! The all-new 2017 Subaru Impreza is the last of five cars that Central Coast Motor Group have generously donated over the last 5 years. In previous years we've had a past student, a school parent, and two CCGS grandparents take home the prize!! Will you be the final winner?



Here's our top tips for winning the car!

1. Buy lots of tickets - you've got to be in it to win it!
2. Create a vision board and visualise winning!
3. Become friendly with a CCGS grandparent and ask them to buy you a ticket :)



Tickets are \$20 each and we only have 2,000 to sell (that's great odds). You can buy tickets online: www.ccgns.nsw.edu.au/win

Long locks chopped for charity

Alexandra Jennings (Year 12) has been growing her hair for as long as she can remember, but she recently lopped her golden locks to raise funds for the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation.

"I think I'd become known as the girl with the really, really long hair around here," said Alexandra. "My hair was just below my hips and after the cut, it sits just above my shoulders!"

The Cure Brain Cancer Foundation aims to raise money for Brain Cancer Research and is a cause very close to Alexandra's heart following her Aunties diagnosis. "I'm really pleased that through the simple act of a haircut, I've been able to increase advocacy and raise awareness of the Foundation," said Alexandra. "My original goal was to raise \$2,000 but I well surpassed that raising over \$4,000!"

The money Alexandra raised will support the Foundation reach their mission of increasing survival rates and the hair she had cut was donated to the Pantene Beautiful Lengths Fund to be turned into wigs for women and children undergoing cancer treatment.



A conversation with Christian

Deb Curtis, Dean of Senior Studies, remembers Christian Whitfield (Head Boy 2013) as a “conscientious, hardworking student and committed leader of the student body.” Since leaving school he seems to have really kicked into overdrive. His intensive university studies are keeping him very busy but his commitment to his long-term vision of a career in politics started to yield results following his successful election as President of the Bond University Student Association in 2016.

Where do you see yourself after University?

I am graduating in October 2017, certainly on the home stretch of my combined Bachelor's (Commerce and Law) and I am looking to pursue entry level positions in either investment banking or management consulting. I'd like to do some time offshore as I build a professional career in one of these two fields.

A longstanding dream of mine is to be the Prime Minister and a move into the public sector and politics is very much still on the cards, just a little way down the line.

What's involved in being President of Bond University Student Association (BUSA)?

I ran for the Presidency of the peak student body (BUSA) and over a two week campaign of debates and election days, secured the office for the 2016/2017 Committee. The Committee is a large group of eighteen students, and nine months into my term I am still surprised, in the best way possible, how many parts of the student experience we can change in a meaningful way.

Being President has been the most rewarding position I've taken in my life and is extremely demanding. My role is, on average, 40hrs a week alongside my studies. These hours are mainly taken up by liaising with the University, championing student causes and organising events - the exposure and experiences I have had have been unreal; from lobbying Education Ministers to sitting on disciplinary boards.

What's your advice to current students studying in their final HSC year?

Year 12 was my favourite year at CCGS for no other reason than I made a conscious decision to say 'yes' to everything that I could. That is not to say I didn't prioritise my studies, I did, but the skills I learned and memories I made doing the things outside the classroom not only contributed to good marks but also set me up for a really positive university experience.



If you head off to university, don't fall into the trap of letting the courses define your time. Student politics has consumed as much if not more of my time over the last two years than my coursework and it is those skills that I am leaning and drawing on as I move into my professional career.

How do you keep in touch with old school friends?

Being interstate is definitely a roadblock in maintaining a lot of close friendships from high school, especially considering lots of my obligations keep me in Queensland. However, phones work both ways so if you're willing to make the effort when you have a spare fifteen minutes that goes a long way. I always make an effort to see those I am still close with when I do venture back to Sydney or the Coast, and there are a number of teachers I am still in close contact with. CCGS is a great foundation to build the types of lasting friendships and relationships that will withstand distance as a factor.

Past Students

School friends stick together!

Past students **Jim Hunter** (2009), **Bill Hunter** (2008) and **Michael Dowsett** (2009) have stuck together since leaving school. All three have just recently completed the very challenging Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand qualification and are currently working together in Sydney.

While they all work together in the same boutique firm, all three are specialising in very different areas. Jim works in advisory services for SME's (Small and medium-sized enterprises), Michael works with a publicly traded biotechnology company on the New Zealand Stock Exchange, and Bill in self-managed superannuation and financial planning.

As keen sportsmen at school, it's not surprising that their favourite CCGS memories come from the sporting field. "I loved representing the school at the ISA carnivals and competitions," said Jim. "The highlight of my CCGS schooling was probably winning the ISA basketball tournament in my final year of school!" Their love of sport has stayed with them through the years; Jim is still a very keen basketballer, Michael has continued to play competitive Rugby, and Bill enjoys hitting the waves for a surf as much as possible.

The friendship (and brotherhood) they share meant that they could draw support from each other as they completed the Chartered



Jim (left), Bill (centre) and Michael (right)

Accountancy course together. "It was a very challenging, yet rewarding experience and I'm glad that I had strong support," said Bill. "Retaining friendships is so important. When you're 18 years old you don't realise how important those relationships are - they're invaluable and worth maintaining."

Jim, Bill and Michael have all travelled extensively since leaving CCGS, with Michael particularly keen to continue his tertiary education in the United States.



Jim and Michael on CCGS Rugby tour

Career tip

Accountancy, Finance and Business is an area of interest for CCGS students with approximately 20% of recent graduates (from the Class of 2016) selecting tertiary study in these fields.

While accountancy has a reputation of being boring, Bill believes that accountancy is the language of business and accountants walk a very diverse path working with interesting people with broad and far-reaching goals. "People don't often realise that it's not all about the numbers, rather, it's about the relationships you develop with clients. Often you are invaluable in helping them

achieve their goals. So it's a great career choice for people who like to help people."

For students who are interested in a career in Accountancy and Business, Michael suggests spending time in the real-world doing the job while studying. "Summer internships are an excellent opportunity to gauge what's involved. It can also shine a spotlight on areas people may not have considered and may think about specialising in down the track."

Courtney Thompson (DUX 2012)

Courtney recently returned to CCGS as a keynote speaker at our 2017 International Women's Day breakfast. Passionate about women's equity and equality, Courtney shared some really interesting insights and thought provoking ideas about how both men and women play a role in female empowerment.

Courtney is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) and serves as a Board Director managing the Women's Portfolio on the Sydney University Student Union.

Courtney's CCGS education encouraged her to find her voice and her calling. "I was so encouraged by the strong female teachers I had at school who were excellent role models. In year 11, I become increasingly interested and passionate about women's issues and I've maintained that passion through to University. I want to provide a platform to bring the very real issues 'we don't often talk about' like feminism and domestic violence, to the fore."

In 2015, Courtney co-founded fEMPOWER – a volunteer run program of gender equality workshops for high school students. Their workshops help recognise and challenge gender inequality and aims to educate young women and men on feminist issues, ranging from women's representation in the media to



Courtney speaks at the 2017 International Women's Day breakfast

sexual harassment. "The workshops aim to break down harmful stereotypes through the sheer power of education. In the process it gives a voice to the unheard," said Courtney.

NEWS FLASH: Congratulations to Courtney who has just been elected President of the University of Sydney Union Board.

Save the date

A colorful poster for 'Springfair on the Green' at Central Coast Grammar School. The poster features a green field with a red and white striped tent, a Ferris wheel, and a carousel. The text on the poster includes: 'Central Coast Grammar School', 'springfair on the Green', 'RIDES ☺ GOURMET FOOD ✨ KIDS ZONE ✨ PETTING ZOO', 'LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ☺ MARKET STALLS ♡ PARENTS RETREAT', 'PONY RIDES ☺ YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ☺ AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...', 'Saturday 9th September, 9am-4pm', and 'Arundel Road, Erina Heights NSW'.

Past Student email newsletter

Email is the easier and faster way for past students to stay up to date with CCGS past student news.

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