



CENTRAL COAST  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# BUNDARA

Magazine

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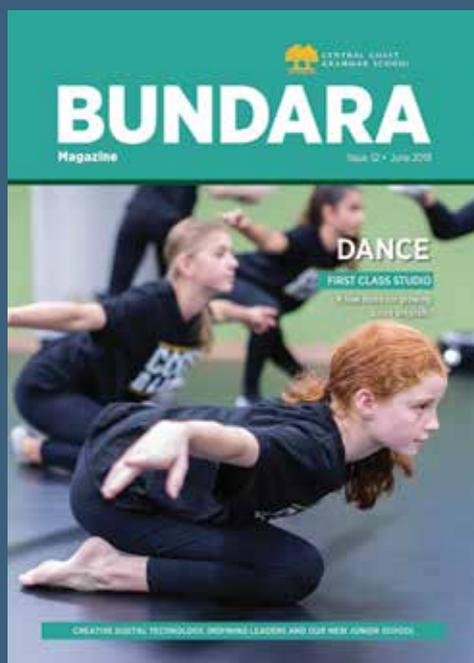
## DANCE

FIRST CLASS STUDIO

A new home for growing  
dance program.



CREATIVE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, INSPIRING LEADERS AND OUR NEW JUNIOR SCHOOL



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## From the Board

It was with great pride and pleasure that I addressed my first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May as Chairman of the School Board.

I have served on the Board for a number of years, including the last few years as the Deputy Chair, and I am delighted to have been afforded this privilege by my fellow Board colleagues.

At the AGM I paid tribute to retiring Chair, Ken Jolly (AM), who has served as Chair for eight years and will continue to make a significant contribution as a Board member. His leadership has been very significant both in the development of our strategic plan 2015-20, Next Generation Teaching and Learning, and in the development of a very cohesive and focused Board. On behalf of the whole school community, I thank Ken for his passionate and intellectual contribution to the Board.

The new Dance studio that opened in March is testament to the Board's continuous striving to provide facilities worthy of our students' talents.

Detailed plans for the new Junior School, as well as plans for a new covered grandstand and amenities block, are now complete and I am pleased to confirm that contracts have now been exchanged with a builder allowing construction to begin. The new buildings will be ready for occupation at the start of the 2021 school year. The Building Committee will now commence work on concept plans for the conversion of the current K to 2 precinct for use by senior students. This significant investment in innovative infrastructure will benefit students from Kindergarten to Year 12 and accelerate the school's capacity to deliver the next generation teaching and learning at the heart of its strategic plan.

In addition to the Junior School Planning Committee, the Board's other subcommittees have been extremely busy. The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee tendered out the school's banking requirements, ensuring best value and service. We have also appointed new auditors in line with good governance practice. The Governance Committee facilitated an independent Board review, conducted by the Association of Independent Schools, ensuring our governance practices are current and are of the highest possible standard.

I am honoured to lead such a dedicated and highly skilled Board and to serve such an engaged and aspirational community.

#### **Stephen Brahams FAICD**

Chairman of the School Board



## From the Headmaster

The start of 2019 has been a whirlwind of achievements and planning for the future.

Exceptional HSC results saw the 2018 cohort achieve excellent academic outcomes with almost one third of students achieving an ATAR over 90.

Dancers were buzzing with excitement in their new home, a state of the art dance studio.

Cambridge University recognized the school's international reputation for innovation by featuring CCGS in their Innovation 800 project, a high-profile study of innovation across a range of global industries.

Our community is stronger than ever. Alumni and parents shared their experience with Year 10 students during the inaugural Towards Leadership event at the end of 2018. Students heard first hand from highly successful past students and had the opportunity to interact with them regarding careers and life planning.

The K to 2 parent community valued coming together, with each other and their children, to run activities from science activities to gem sieving on the legendary parents activity day that wrapped up the Infants camp.

We celebrated the many cultures that make up our diverse community on Harmony Day. We cared for others, locally and internationally. Students clocked up over 4500 hours of community volunteering over 15 years at Sunday Lunches in Gosford. Families packed kits for Birthing Kit Foundation Australia to help reduce childbirth mortality rates in developing countries.

As we look forward to Semester 2, students and teachers are getting very excited about the new junior school buildings now that work is underway. Year 3 to 5 classes moved smoothly to their new temporary accommodation. Demolition of the Prep buildings has commenced and will proceed apace during the school holidays, followed by an ambitious building program to ensure we move into the new school building for the 2021 school year.

I feel privileged to have collaborated with retiring Chair Ken Jolly (AM) and value the strong relationship we have built between the management and governance arms of our school's leadership. On a personal note, I would like to thank Ken for his support, guidance and friendship.

I congratulate Stephen Brahams on his appointment as Chairman of the School Board. He joined our Board in 2011 and has been very actively involved in the Junior School Planning Committee. Stephen is a CCGS parent and a director of a number of internationally based companies with over 40 years' experience in the commercial property development and investment market. His broad and deep understanding of the CCGS mission means that we are in very good hands.

As we look forward to Semester 2, we can celebrate our unique community culture and anticipate exciting developments on the horizon.

### **William Low**

Headmaster/Chief Executive Officer



# New home for growing dance program

## **Dance groups, elective classes and HSC students are enjoying a new facility worthy of their talents.**

The opening of a brand new state of the art dance studio in early March 2019 has seen dancers buzzing with excitement as they refine their routines in this new purpose built and innovative space.

The newly completed studio came at an ideal time, cementing the significant successes of the growing dance program at CCGS.

Year 11 and 12 Dance students were the first to enjoy the studio. Dance captain, Eleanor Incoll was delighted with the new space. "It's immaculate! What a fantastic environment to further develop our skills. I'm thrilled to be using the room for my upcoming HSC Examination later this year."

The new studio is a sophisticated space featuring 110 square metres of the highest quality sprung flooring and a mirrored wall and barre. It is acoustically engineered with sound-proof walls and boasts technological inclusions such as a digital screen for projection and an integrated, wireless sound system.

Built as an addition to the Performing Arts Centre, the air-conditioned studio is a spacious, functional area with change rooms, office space and a costume storage facility.

## **Dance at a glance**

The flourishing dance program at CCGS has seen a host of achievements in recent years.

- In 2017 and 2018 over 50% of HSC Dance students achieved a prestigious Band 6.
- In 2017 more than 80% of students received nominations for Callback, NESA's showcase of exemplary performances and compositions by HSC Dance students.
- In 2018, student Stephanie McDougal received unprecedented success in Callback. She was nominated for all three of her dances, and selected for two, performing at the Seymour Centre Sydney in front of students from across NSW.
- The school has seen success in regional competitions, and was one of only 8 finalists in the City of Sydney eisteddfod's Grand Final Gala, which draws from a large pool of dance schools across New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

2019 is already shaping up as a great year for Dance. The Senior Lyrical Company competed in the Central Coast Eisteddfod in April and were awarded first place. In May all Senior Dance Groups took part in the Sydney heats of Dance Life Unite and our Senior Lyrical Company placed second.



Dance at CCGS has seen an incredible and rapid rise in the last four years.”

Five additional rooms to facilitate special provision for examination requirements were also incorporated in the development, for use by the whole school.



Dance teacher and convenor, Larissa Koch said, “I’m so proud of what we have achieved in our Dance program so far at CCGS. Our students have had some incredible achievements in a short time and I feel inspired to continue and expand on these successes in our new facility.”

The diverse Dance program offers students a range of choices. Dance is integrated across the K to 6 curriculum, is an elective class option in Years 9 to 10 and a HSC course for Years 11 to 12. A range of competitive dance groups including Senior Lyrical, Senior Contemporary and Senior Jazz ensembles regularly compete.

New for 2019 is the addition of a competitive Junior Company Dance Group for Years 5 to 6 and a Year 7 to 8 Dance Group. Over 140 students across the school participate in cocurricular and elective dance classes.

“We’re excited to see our dance troupes going from strength to strength. Our boys and girls get so much enjoyment out of dance. It’s wonderful to experience the creative and physical aspects of performance and our students have the opportunity to achieve in an area they are passionate about,” said Mrs Koch.

“Dance at CCGS has seen an incredible and rapid rise in the last four years,” said Director of Performing Arts, Lee Fleming.

“A resource like the new dance studio will allow our team to further extend our outstanding levels of success in the curriculum and cocurricular programs. Students and teaching staff are so appreciative of this fantastic specialist space and the positivity and enjoyment in rehearsals is palpable.”

## CCGS HITS NEW HIGHS WITH HSC RESULTS

### Outstanding achievements across all areas.

Exceptionally strong 2018 HSC results saw CCGS rank at number 56 in the top 100 schools (Sydney Morning Herald), an improvement of 27 places from 2017.

Headmaster Mr Bill Low said that he was particularly pleased with the strong results across all areas. He praised the entire class of 2018 for their efforts, and congratulated all teaching staff for such strong support and skilled teaching. In addition, he acknowledged the very significant role played by teachers, parents and families in supporting their students' wellbeing.

We're very proud of the collective and individual achievements of our students, some of which include:

- Seven students (**Emily Brooks, Emelia Corlett, Emma Farncomb, Elena Khoury, Zoe Mitchell, Indigo Neville and Jake Vernon-Elliot**) were honoured by inclusion in the NSW Education Standards Authority **All Rounders** list for achieving Band 6 in 10 or more units of study.
- Four students (**Emelia Corlett, Elena Khoury, Zoe Mitchell and Jake Vernon-Elliot**) were named **Top Achievers** in eight subjects. Top Achievers represent the students who achieved one of the highest places in their subject.
- Outstanding performances were recorded in Society and Culture with **Zoe Mitchell** ranking 1st and two other students ranking in the top 7 in the state out of 4,500 students. **Max Goring** was one of 14 students in this subject to be awarded a High Distinction for his Personal Interest Project, which investigated the erosion of civil liberties in Australia and the United States.
- In the Sciences 26% of students gained Band 6 results in Physics, Chemistry and Biology with **Jake Vernon-Elliot** ranking 2nd in the state in Biology
- Within the Performing Arts across the subjects of Music, Drama and Dance, 55% of students gained Band 6 results with a record number of 16 nominations from the NSW Education Standards Authority. **Stephanie Macdougall**, an exceptionally talented dancer, received 2 selections to perform in the HSC Dance showcase.



## HSC HIGHLIGHTS

5% of our students achieved an **ATAR over 99**

18% of our students achieved an **ATAR over 95**

31% achieved an **ATAR over 90**

43% achieved an **ATAR over 85**

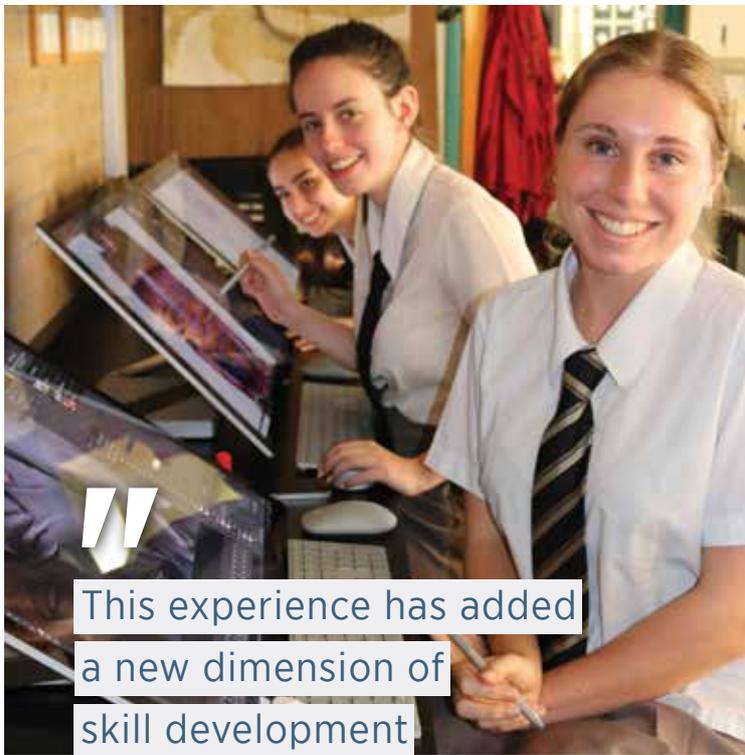
55% achieved an **ATAR over 80**

53% of our students were noted on the NSW Education Standards Authority **Distinguished Achievers** list for achieving a Band 6 in 1 or more of their subjects.



Pictured above Emelia Corlett, Elena Khoury, Zoe Mitchell and Jake Vernon-Elliot and below Dux 2018 Zoe Mitchell with parents.





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This experience has added a new dimension of skill development to visual arts”



# New digital technology unleashes creativity

## Oculus Rift VR technology and Surface Pros add a new dimension to visual arts.

Digital tools have been enhancing learning across the curriculum - from drones and programmable robots in Mathematics to the green room in English and Humanities - and digital literacy in art is no exception. Students in the junior and senior school have been developing real world digital and graphic design skills, expanding their imaginations and nurturing their creativity in new digital ways.

Year 6 Visual Art students recently created their own virtual reality productions, animating artistic handmade forms to come alive in a virtual world. The marriage of classic artistic mediums with new virtual reality technology allowed students to develop digital literacy in a new creative way.

The inspiration for this unit was the artist Shaun Tan and his work in both film and illustration. Working with the theme “The Lost Thing”, from Tan’s book, students also took inspiration from Tan’s ceramic works based on the Brothers Grimm’s fairy tales, as found in another of Tan’s titles, “The Singing Bones”.

The creative process involved students developing their own whimsical form. Using hand drawn designs, they constructed a three dimensional form in clay, decorating the piece using ceramic underglazes.

The next stage saw students utilise virtual reality and the Oculus Rift application ‘Tilt Brush’ to develop their form in a virtual world. Students grasped their virtual palette and paint brush and drew their form in three dimensions in a virtual environment. They developed graphic design skills including virtual image manipulation and the ability to manipulate virtual tools in a graphical environment.

Gavin Summers, Director of Innovative Learning and Digital Literacy said, “This experience has added a new dimension of skill development to visual arts, cultivating three dimensional thinking in the virtual world.”

“It has been particularly interesting to observe which students were easily able to create their creatures in 3D and which students’ thinking remained within 2 dimensions. This has been a valuable addition to an engaging, imaginative

learning sequence,” Mr Summers added.

Senior Year students have also been taking advantage of the Visual Art department’s expanding technology tools with the addition of Microsoft Surface Pros. With enhanced drawing and writing capabilities, the ten new touch screens give senior Visual Arts and Photo Media students a new medium to help them create exceptional artwork.

Previously, for touch-screen applications, students used graphics tablets to project images onto a screen. Senior School Art teacher, Sandra Peebles said, “Working on a bigger scale is much more user friendly. This new larger format and enhanced functionality increases the scope of projects.”

Marnala Dent (Year 12) said, “For my Body of Work I’m doing a graphic novel about a girl and her journey of self-discovery and what it means to be a youth in today’s society. I like using the new Surface Pros. The bigger screen makes it easier to draw in more detail and it also makes drawing faster.”



# Building for the future

CCGS commitment to next generation learning continues.

Construction of a new K to 6 junior school will accelerate the school's capacity to deliver next generation education at the heart of its strategic plan.

The project also includes an outdoor junior assembly area that will also serve as a sports grandstand and amenities, plus conversion of existing K to 2 rooms for senior use.

At the core of the junior school architectural design are three buildings, one each for Years K to 2, 3 to 4 and 5 to 6, with flexible learning spaces flowing into seven neighbourhoods - one for each year level - with a seamless transition onto landscaped gardens and terraces. Friendships can flourish in separate, secure and age appropriate outdoor play zones for each stage.

Headmaster Bill Low said that the new K- 6 facility, which will be ready for the start of the 2021 school year, will revolutionise teaching and learning.

"During the last four years we've transformed our learning culture and implemented Harvard Education's Teaching for Understanding Framework, but it's challenging to deliver student centred, innovative

and collaborative learning in buildings dating from the foundation of the school in 1985.

"Revolutionising learning has driven every design decision for this new facility, resulting in a learning environment centred on students rather than classrooms. Adaptable furniture and learning spaces will give teachers the flexibility to facilitate individual focus, group projects and grade workshops according to different learning intentions and learning styles.

"Each of the facility's thirty light filled learning spaces will be fitted with cutting edge technological enhancements to individualise learning and connect students in exciting and absorbing real world scenarios," said Mr Low.

All students will benefit when existing K to 2 facilities are rapidly redeveloped to create equally exciting senior learning spaces, fundamentally realigning the geography of the campus.

The school has a strong history of developing state of the art facilities that accelerate programs from Kindergarten to Year 12.



In 2018 senior students benefited from the \$2 million redevelopment of the History and English block, a blueprint for the whole school rollout of innovative learning environments. The re-fitting of current K to 2 facilities will further enhance senior provision.

Other developments in the last ten years have included the construction of a dedicated dance studio in 2019, an award winning \$10 million Performing Arts Centre in 2014, the redevelopment of the Science centre in 2012, a library in 2010 and a floodlit synthetic sports field in 2008. In addition we have seen ongoing improvements to the sporting fields and gardens.



## DIVERSE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Flexible spaces
- Active furniture
- Neighbourhood labs
- Outdoor areas



## ROBUST TECHNOLOGY

- Digital connectivity
- Flexible portals
- Continuous diagnostics
- Interactive displays
- Future proofing



## COLLABORATIVE AREAS

- Teamwork
- Social environments
- Identity and community
- Interaction



## TRANSPARENCY

- Classrooms open to adjacent areas
- Glass walls
- Connectivity between classroom and collaborative areas
- Light and airy



## HIGH PERFORMANCE

- Natural light
- LED lighting
- Improved acoustics
- Energy efficiency
- Reduced operational costs



## CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The whole school came together in March for Harmony Day, a day dedicated to celebrating Australia's cultural diversity. This year's celebrations centred on the theme of "Everyone Belongs". Students, staff and the entire CCGS community were reminded of our school values and the importance of inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

A unique and special service for the whole school was held in the morning. In beautiful traditional dress, students celebrated the many cultures that make up our CCGS community. Students enjoyed African, Japanese and Tongan dance performances, heard Chinese and South African songs, listened to examples of the languages spoken throughout the school and watched junior and senior LOTE (Languages Other Than English) students share

aspects of their language studies through drama, song and conversation.

"Harmony Day is about celebrating the cultural diversity we are so lucky to enjoy in this country and especially in this school," said Headmaster Bill Low.

Later in the day Kindergarten classroom activities included students and visiting families sharing special cultural artefacts. Years 1 and 2 stamped their passports in a series of activities that allowed them to discover the culture and language of countries such as Peru, New Zealand, Ireland and India. Students in Years 3 to 6 took part in interactive performances including capoeira, hip-hop dance and Japanese taiko drumming.



## THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT

It's not every day you get to take a deep dive into exactly what makes us human, but Year 9 Sociology students got to do exactly that, peeking behind the curtain of The Human Genome Project.

In an interactive virtual presentation, Vanessa Hayes, Professor of Genomics at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, spoke to students about the complexities of the human genome, genomics evolution and genome sequencing.

Learning from one of the best in the field, students had plenty of insightful questions for the professor as they explored the evolution of genomics and its applications.



## SUNDAY LUNCHES

Community service is a key aspect of a balanced education. As part of our broader curriculum, students convert CCGS values into action by undertaking a range of community volunteering. One of the most popular activities in Year 9 is helping at Sunday Lunches held at Gosford Uniting's church hall - a community initiative that provides meals to people who may be experiencing loneliness, unemployment or homelessness.

2019 marks CCGS's 15th year of involvement in Sunday Lunches. Around 1,500 students have contributed over 4,500 hours of volunteer support by serving meals to those in need. Steven Bennett, Head of Middle School said, "We're proud of our long association with Sunday Lunches. We want our students to see the world out there and be exposed to the harsh realities that some people face. The whole program links strongly to our school values: generosity and selflessness; respect and responsibility."

An international reputation for innovation in education has seen Cambridge University include CCGS alongside 800 elite organisations recognised for their innovative practice.



# Cambridge University recognises CCGS for innovation in education

Innovation 800, a high-profile study of innovation across a range of global industries, is produced by Cambridge University Students' Union and features CCGS in the field of world class education.

CCGS is in the company of only a small number of highly reputable Australian educators and the school is showcased for its cutting-edge approach to next generation learning.

Inclusion in Innovation 800 is achieved by nomination only. Alumni of Cambridge University were asked to nominate innovative organisations worldwide to contribute to the publication. Due to its national and international reputation CCGS received a number of nominations, and was invited to submit a paper regarding innovative practice in the field of education.

The publication recognises CCGS for embracing big ideas that prepare students for the demands of life after school and its focus on real-world education that 'cultivates critical and creative thinkers, independent learners, effective problem solvers and competent communicators'. The paper celebrates the school's commitment to next generation learning and its investment in innovative learning environments and facilities.

The University of Cambridge has been at the forefront of ground breaking education for centuries, and many of the world's leading universities can trace their roots back to Cambridge and its influential alumni. Innovation 800 celebrates the university's

800 years as a centre of innovation, offering inspiration for the pioneers and leaders of tomorrow.

Innovation 800 will be circulated to a readership of 22,000 University of Cambridge students, Cambridge alumni, world leading industry figures, and more than 50,000 educational institutions in over 190 countries worldwide.

"We are proud to be featured in this impressive international project. To be recognised by one of the world's most prestigious universities for our innovation in education is testament to our continual drive to provide a next generation education that equips students with fluent skills for a rapidly changing world," said Headmaster, Mr Bill Low.

"Our next generation learning principles underpin everything we teach, and inform how we operate as an organisation. Our adherence to these principles has helped us to provide transformational learning facilities, cutting edge teaching and learning, and advancements in digital literacy. World class education is the aspiration of all in our learning community."



# Towards Leadership

## Students encouraged to dream, believe, create and succeed.

These were the themes of the inaugural Year 10 Towards Leadership event at the end of 2018.

CCGS alumni and parents shared their experience during a two day program empowering students to explore their personal path to leadership.

Students learned that leadership requires awareness and skills and that these are attributes which you can learn and develop. Workshop topics included the importance of consistency, planning and developing your critical path, goal setting for self-leadership, stress management, digital innovation, social media branding, assertive communication and having difficult conversations.

James Bracey (2002), sports journalist and TV host, shared why it was special coming back to CCGS, "Now I have had the experience of leaving school I can see it through their [students] eyes, 'Where am I going? What am I going to do? How am I going to get there?'. It felt good to come back and share my experience. For CCGS alumni to share their thoughts and give these students an insight was really special. I hope they realise that they can start now to forge their career ahead."

Students engaged with a diverse range of professions including journalism, trades, police force, science, music, human resources, accountancy, property management, law, dentistry and clinical psychology. They were privileged to hear first hand from

successful past students and ask questions to shape their career plans.

Claire Richmond (1996), emergency physician with NSW Ambulance on the Rescue Helicopter, spoke about leadership. "There are three main ingredients that make up being a good leader: focus, discipline and reflection." She challenged students to look at these three disciplines while at school and practice them whenever possible.

Past student Christian Whitfield (2013), now a Commercial Analyst at Wesfarmers, gave one solid piece of advice which has served him well, "Always take what you do really seriously but never take yourself too seriously."

2009 Dux Lauren Holz, now an international lawyer, shared her thoughts on future career paths, "It's challenging for students because there is so much choice available. A lot of the jobs in the future don't even exist now." She encouraged students to keep an open mind and have a willingness to explore things that they think might not be for them. "Back yourself and don't limit yourself. Careers are competitive and jobs might seem out of reach. Even if you're not sure you can do it always try and see what might happen," said Lauren.

Students embraced the program, learning how to manage themselves better and how to become more effective group



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Always take what you do really seriously but never take yourself too seriously.”

members. They walked away understanding that they will travel some distance along a personal path towards leadership, which cannot be bestowed upon them by any formal appointment in or out of school.

Student Robert Bacon shared his experience, “It was exciting to see how people had progressed from school to how they are now in the real world. I’ve learnt that it is great to know people and keep those relationships growing through life to help build opportunities for future jobs or work.”

The program finished with the Raw Challenge, a gruelling muddy obstacle course designed to test students’ team building and leadership skills. Student Georgie Hyde said, “I really enjoyed the Raw Challenge. We worked together as a group and people got to take up opportunities of leadership. We all helped each other out.”

Further leadership seminars continue to run in 2019. Year 12 students recently heard from Natalie Borg of Human Connections who gave practical advice and strategies to focus on character strengths. Key elements of Senior College programs, including the leadership diploma, help prepare students for life post school.

A sincere thank you to all the speakers who generously gave their time to present workshops during the Towards Leadership



program. A sincere thank you to all the speakers who generously gave their time to present workshops during the 2018 Towards Leadership program, Caitlin Abbott, Charlotte Alexander, James Bracey, Alex Brewin, Emily Caska, David Deall, Lauren Holz, Bill Hunter, Heather Irvine-Rundle, Darren Jameson, Matthew Moses-Robinson, Emily-Claire O’Brien, Clare Richmond, Michael Seton, Katie Stokes, Katie Tilden, Christian Whitefield and Anthony Ursino. It is fantastic to see alumni returning to challenge and reassure today’s students.

If you would like to share your post school experience with students during this year’s program, please email [joanne.marston@ccgs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:joanne.marston@ccgs.nsw.edu.au).



# International Women's Day

**A celebration of International Women's Day saw CCGS students, staff and parents support community action for developing countries.**

'More powerful together' was the theme for this year's International Women's Day. CCGS proudly strives to build and maintain a cohesive environment that empowers, respects and supports girls and young women to be their best. Head of Senior College, Denise McDonough challenged the school body to consider the breadth of significance International Women's Day has in the context of school life.

"Our challenge today and for each day that follows is to call out negative stereotypes and gender inequality in all its forms. To celebrate the achievements of women as being equal to those of men by demonstrating true respect. By doing so, we may influence the beliefs and the actions of those we interact or socialise with."

Ms McDonough cited a 2017 study from UNSW indicating that the biggest indicator of workplace fulfilment for women was respect. This ranked higher than equal pay and flexible working conditions. She encouraged students to continue to build a culture of respect amongst their peers.

"The boys and young men in this room have never had a greater opportunity to show that they are truly young men of integrity and virtue. Girls, this is not a passive cry for respect from others. You must respect yourselves as well as show respect for other girls."

"The school prides itself on building a healthy culture that fosters respect for others and respect for diversity."

"It's not only about seeking equality but it's about the life long value of respect," said Ms McDonough.

**It's not only about seeking equality but it's about the life long value of respect."**

Prefect Priya Soni added, "Feminism is fighting for the equality of genders, not the superiority of women. Sometimes we lose sight of the fact that this movement is for everyone."

The day was also an opportunity to raise funds for Zonta International, a leading global organisation of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

The care of others is one of the school's nine fundamental values. The following weekend the school community showed its values in action when students, parents and staff came together to pack birthing kits for Birthing Kit Foundation Australia. These kits allow mothers in developing countries the chance of a cleaner, safer birthing environment which in turn helps to reduce childbirth mortality rates.



## PROFESSIONAL PRODUCERS HELP RECORD MUSIC

The Performing Arts Centre state of the art recording studio came to life when professional song writer Gina Jeffries and producer Rod McCormack helped Year 9 students write and produce their own original songs. Music teacher, Cameron Singh, launched this project to engage students in their own personal interest projects. Said Mr Singh, "I'm really proud of what these students were able to produce. They are making music that is well beyond their years."

This is the first time the school's recording studio has seen a project of this scale. Two students, Georgia Bowers and Niamh Watson, were lucky enough to have their own songs fully produced by student Jacky McCormack under Rod's guidance.

Niamh's song, Mixed Signals, is among several modern electronic compilations available on her Spotify and iTunes channel. She has received over 25,000 plays so far.



## DAYS FOR GIRLS

Sewing machines were out in force over the last two terms. Dedicated teachers, parents and student volunteers sewed up menstrual hygiene kits for girls and women in developing countries as part of the work led by nonprofit organisation "Days for Girls".

Meeting every fortnight, volunteers have sewn around 50 kits so far to help support young girls. The CCGS community has kindly donated soap, underwear and face washers to add to these kits.

The current project will wind up in Term 3 with completed kits being hand delivered to recipients in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville during the Cambodia Humanitarian Tour. Giving back is part of the 'fabric' of our school culture. Thank you to everyone who has supported this worthwhile cause.



## INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

A friendly rivalry with a long history saw rugby play out at an international level in March. CCGS were excited to host Collingwood School from Vancouver, Canada.

As part of our international sports program, this was Collingwood's eighth hosted visit. 34 Canadian boys making up two teams, Under 16 and Under 18, were hosted by CCGS families. Paul Geddes, Director of Sport said, "Hosting these visitors and travelling on our international sport tours are great experiences. We get to welcome different cultures and learn about different playing styles. This helps us improve our game, enhances team work, develops lifelong friendships and builds resilience."

Our Under 16s won their match 38-12 whilst our Under 18's were defeated 5-14. "We're looking forward to welcoming Collingwood back in 2021," added Mr Geddes.



## SUMMER SPORTS WRAP UP

### BASKETBALL

CCGS girls basketball continued its reign after receiving the Girls Basketball Champion School award in the ISA competition. CCGS has now won the shield ten times in the last eleven years. Three out of nine teams won their premiership titles with another two placing as runners up. Not to be out done, five of the nine boys teams played in the finals and two teams came away with the ISA Championship!

### SOFTBALL

The CCGS softball team achieved the long awaited win they had been waiting for, receiving the ISA Girls Softball Champion School award for the first time in CCGS history.

In the final games, the junior team placed as runners up and the senior team came third, narrowly losing out in the semi finals.



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This is definitely one of the most challenging plays we have done. Comedy is hugely complex – it’s about tone, exaggeration, language, timing and more.”



# The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged!)

**Love or loathe Shakespeare, one thing was certain, audiences loved the senior Drama students’ production of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged!)*.**

The thought of doing 37 plays from the world’s most revered playwright in just 90 minutes might have made students shrink with fear. But not CCGS Year 11 and 12 students. They embraced the challenge with full force.

Think Monty Pythonesque cross dressing meets sword fighting meets poisoning. Audiences held on tight as students weaved their way through all of Shakespeare’s comedies, histories and tragedies in one wild ride.

Producer and Drama teacher, Natalie Parsons-Clair, had seen the play in London some years ago and fell in love with the humour. “It is a very funny play. It’s a fun take on Shakespeare but with serious moments. It pays respect and homage to

the Bard but in a slightly irreverent way,” said Mrs Parsons-Clair.

A cast of just 19 students, playing around 60 different characters, had audiences rolling in the aisles with laughter. Lee Fleming, Director of Performing Arts, commented, “This is the first time in a number of years that we’ve chosen a comedy for our senior Drama production and this was definitely one with more mature content. It was slapstick and satirical. Teenagers rapping Shakespeare, cross dressing boys and girls, ridiculous deaths, convenient love triangles and performances delivered forwards, backwards and in record speed.”

The stage was redesigned with a purpose built apron extension to help create proximity and intimacy between cast and audience.

Mrs Parsons-Clair said, “The rapport between the cast and the audience was very special. The audience were ready to

laugh and appreciate the performance. This helped the students grow so much. We even received a standing ovation one night which gave us all tingles.

“This is definitely one of the most challenging plays we have done. Comedy is hugely complex – it’s about tone, exaggeration, language, timing and more. It’s a big ask for our students and it was great to see them embrace the challenge.”

With so many special moments and hilarious scenes, including Hamlet performed in three different ways, as well as special guest appearance from Connie Russo, retired CCGS teacher, the audience was left thoroughly entertained.

Year 12 student, Ben Oliver came along to see the show and summed up the night, “An intriguing modern approach to Shakespeare that showcased the unique talents of the amazing cast.”



# Three fun filled days for our youngest students

## Another successful Infants camp highlights community connections.

At the end of Term 1, while middle and senior school students embarked on outdoor adventures and challenges, our youngest students from Kindergarten to Year 2 were enjoying their own action packed three day camp.

Day one kicked off with a range of amazing, fun-focused educational and team building sport competitions organised by the Motiv8 Sports crew. The Motiv8 Olympics saw children engage in high energy activities like tug of war and ball skills. All kids could be part of the action, regardless of their ability. Students were rewarded for their efforts with a special closing ceremony.

The rhythm and beat of the Dancepants disco and games allowed students to show off their moves and dance the morning away on day two. Excitement built in the afternoon as they headed to Erina to watch the Lego Movie 2.

The final day of camp was the highly anticipated parents activity day highlighting

the unique and strong community connections at CCGS. Around 100 parent helpers ran activities including face painting, hairspray, science experiments, gem sieving and cupcake decorating - to name just a few.

The famous CCGS Infants hospital proved popular once again. Students role played doctors and nurses with x-rays, fake cuts, bruises and bandages. Each budding student doctor received a special doctor kit with band aids, stickers and gloves.

School parent Holly Gilbert said, "The camp is a fantastic way for children to interact with lots of different parents. And it's equally great for the parents too. It reinforces the community feel of CCGS. It shows the children we are a community, and it's lovely to have that interaction with everyone."

New to parents activity day was the CCGS yoga oasis - a chance for students to meditate and stretch in a space of quiet reflection and aromatherapy. Students were

“

It shows the children we are a community.”

shown how to move their bodies in new ways in a quiet, calm and peaceful environment.

Yoga expert and parent, Mr Kesari Bhattacharya said, "Every session we ran was different. I went with the flow of energy in the room. In some sessions the children were too excited, so we did lots of high energy fast poses. In other sessions the students were calm and subdued, so we did breathing, a little bit of meditation and a lot of relaxing stretches."

A big thank you to everyone that helped make the Kindergarten to Year 2 camp such a huge success.



## Meet James Bracey (2002)

A well known face, James Bracey is a successful journalist and national television host who has covered two winter and three summer Olympics, a Commonwealth Games and a Rugby World Cup.

**You're a popular journalist and national television host, with a career that has taken you around the world. What is the trait that has been most vital in achieving this success?**

I think having a strong work ethic is key.

From when I got my first job as a 14 year old at Video Ezy Erina (best job ever!) to washing dishes at Terrigal Thai, working at Terrigal Bowlo or eventually becoming a television sports reporter/host, I always just wanted to make sure I was fully committed, reliable and good to work with.

I haven't been sacked from a job yet, so it's a formula that seems to be working. I've probably jinxed myself now.

**When you were a Year 10 student did you ever imagine you'd have a career as a sports journalist/TV host?**

Somehow, I knew early on that I wanted to work in broadcasting. I would record radio shows and mock footy commentary on my cassette recorder (yep, I'm that old). But as a Year 10 student I never would've imagined that I'd get to do what I've done for a job over the past 15 years!

The post school world seems so intimidating as a teenager, but once you leave school and venture into it, you soon realise that you really can get what you want. Everyone else is just as daunted.

**What is one piece of advice you would give to today's CCGS students?**

Start early!

If you've got an inkling of what you might like to do/be, hunt down someone who is already in that industry and send them an email asking for some advice on how to take the first steps into that industry. The worst they can do is not write back - you've got nothing to lose! And if you don't get a response, have a back up option too. Persistence pays.

**What are you passionate about?**

Food. Sport. My family. Not necessarily in that order.

**What is your favourite memory of your CCGS years?**

Definitely our Under 16's rugby premiership. We went the full season undefeated and I was actually really pleased with the way I played, unlike the other five years I was at CCGS. Also, electrocuting my entire Year 7 Science class by taking my hands off the Van Der Graff generator. Poor Mrs Hockey - not sure if she's forgiven me yet!

### ALUMNI NEWS

Want to be in the know with the latest alumni news? Visit the news page at [ccgs.nsw.edu.au](https://ccgs.nsw.edu.au) for more alumni stories. If you're a CCGS alumni contact Joanne Marston on 4365 8479 to share your alumni news or visit our alumni page at [ccgs.nsw.edu.au](https://ccgs.nsw.edu.au) to update your details today.



### **JULIA DOUKAKIS (2011)**

Julia Doukakis' passion for music has seen her travel and perform all around the world.

After leaving CCGS she studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, learning from Sydney Symphony Orchestra Principal Viola Roger Benedict.

In 2016, she became a Fellow with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and worked with the orchestra full time, including performances under world renowned conductors. The following year she gained a scholarship through the Elizabethan Theatre Trust and moved to London to take part in Southbank Sinfonia. Currently based in the UK, she has recently commenced studying a Masters at the Royal Academy of Music and is performing with several leading symphony orchestras including the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

### **CONNECTIONS FAR AND WIDE**

Strong connections between staff and students, no matter where in the world our students go post school, were demonstrated when alumni Hagen Ashley (2015), Lachlan Walker (2007) and Samuel Bloore (2011) caught up with CCGS Sports tour staff. All past students were in Japan for very different reasons:

Hagen was in Tokyo as part of his Joint Medical Program at the University of Newcastle, completing a unit at Jikei University Hospital in the Emergency and Neurosurgery department.

Lachlan was pursuing his dream of training with some of the best gymnasts in the world at Nihon University. He has a Commerce degree majoring in Actuarial Studies and Finance from UNSW.

After completing an athletic tennis scholarship at Saint Mary's College of California, majoring in Economics, Sam is now studying a Masters in Economics at the University of Tokyo.



### **CAITLIN ABBOTT (2011)**

Viruses, infectious diseases and the Sydney Morning Herald. It doesn't sound like the usual occupational mix but for Caitlin Abbott communicating the complex in simple ways is critical to understanding.

After leaving CCGS she studied infectious diseases and linguistics, graduating with a First Class Honours in Microbiology. Now a PhD student at the University of Sydney studying Virology, Caitlin teaches undergraduates and high school students. She also writes for the Sydney Morning Herald where she communicates her passion for microscopy and viruses.

Caitlin has been interviewed for the ABC Counterpoint series sharing her knowledge of viruses in the fight against vision disorders and diseases like Parkinson's. Her vital work looks at how we can use viruses to develop new vaccines or even kill cancer.



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