



CENTRAL COAST
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

BUNDARA

Magazine

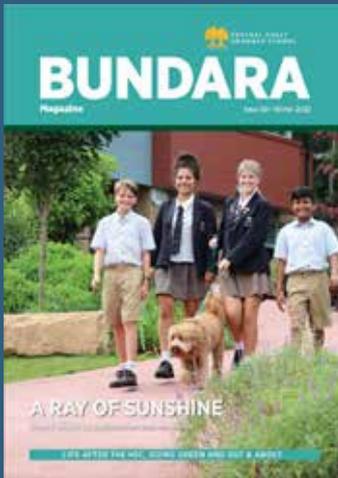
Issue 58 • Winter 2022



A RAY OF SUNSHINE

Sunny shows us compassion and resilience.

LIFE AFTER THE HSC, GOING GREEN AND OUT & ABOUT



BUNDARA is the biannual magazine of Central Coast Grammar School.

Contact

Community Relations
Central Coast Grammar School
Arundel Road
Erina Heights NSW 2260
Australia

Enquiries

E: info@ccgs.nsw.edu.au
T: +61 2 4367 6766
F: +61 2 4365 1860
CRICOS Provider Code: 02261G

Website

www.ccgs.nsw.edu.au

CCGS Social Media

facebook.com/centralcoastgrammar
 instagram.com/centralcoastgrammar
 linkedin.com/school/centralcoastgrammar

Editorial team

Joanne Marston, Jacqui Raadsma, Learne Groves

Print

Bundara is printed on Sovereign Silk. Sovereign Silk is manufactured according to ISO 14001 EMS accreditation and is FSC certified.

Central Coast Grammar School acknowledges the Darkinjung people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which the School is located. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country.

From the Chairman

The Annual General Meeting was held on 26 May and we reflected on another very successful year as we navigated the COVID pandemic with strong leadership, empathy and innovation.

The Board extends its thanks to the Executive team, staff, families and students of CCGS who have shown resilience and determination. While we cannot predict what the future will hold, it is clear, CCGS is in a strong position to respond, manage and adapt.

The first semester of 2022 has seen health restrictions lift further. The vast array of cocurricular programs offered at the School are in full swing and, despite the ever looming wet weather, CCGS has truly come alive.

Parents and carers are back onsite – volunteering in classes or watching performances. It was wonderful to see so many attend the Headmaster's Welcome Gathering – a thank you to the P&F for their excellent organisation.

Older students are leading our youngest in robotics, chess, coding and public speaking or helping transfer their sporting knowledge to the next generation of athletes.

2022 sees us enter the second year in the implementation of the *Striving for Excellence* strategic plan. Over the coming year we will continue to be purposeful in our attention to programs which deliver enhanced learning opportunities and increased wellbeing benefits to our students and staff.

The canteen is under significant refurbishment and is being extended to include the old Uniform Shop. It promises to be an incredible space and we cannot wait for it to officially open in Term 3.

Sunny, our Wellbeing ambassador, turned one this term. She has certainly found her 'paws' providing all students with a ray of sunshine.

The School has started 2022 in a very strong position. I am honoured to serve such an engaged and dedicated community.

Stephen Brahams FAICD
Chairman of the School Board



From the Headmaster

The start of 2022 has seen a flurry of activity, achievements and planning.

Despite navigating a global pandemic, the 2021 cohort achieved excellent HSC results. CCGS ranked 75th on the SMH Top 100 schools and 63% of all exams sat resulted in a Band 5 or 6. We were honoured to recognise a full array of individual HSC achievements with students exhibiting their work at galleries and exhibitions.

Naplan results in 2021 were also outstanding – we placed 51 in primary and 63 in high school in the state – and CCGS was the only non-selective school to be listed in the top 100.

In this Bundara issue, we take you behind the scenes of what life is like for Sunny the dog. She has firmly secured her place as a favourite with everyone she meets and is quickly learning new skills every day.

The School's connection with Olympians continues to grow. Alumni Matt Graham (2014) shares his highs and lows, echoing the School

value of resilience – an important lesson for us all. Our growing Equestrian team gains sound advice and tips from Olympians Wayne Roycroft and Stuart Tinney. We wish our CCGS Equestrian team the best of luck in the Interschools competition in July.

It's been wonderful to see CCGS families attending morning teas, School Service and assemblies. I was delighted the rain held off for our Headmaster's Welcome Gathering. Thank you to all families who attended. It provided the perfect opportunity for us to fully welcome our new P&F President Lana King who, along with the entire P&F team, held a fantastic night for everyone. Special thank you to Jenny Waddington for her strong organisation.

CCGS aspires to develop confident, caring and mature global citizens. The Class of 2021 tell their journey post HSC and past Head Prefects and Duxes share their varied careers and lives.

For the past two years we have lived under a multitude of varying health restrictions. COVID has taught us many things - one of the most important is adaptability. We continue as a school and community to be agile, buoyant and focused on moving forward.

This Semester, we see the full energy, potential and passion of our School resume after two years of disruption. It is wonderful to see our students perform in Eisteddfods, compete against other schools at sporting carnivals, connect together across cohorts through House Families and engage in the vast array of cocurricular programs the School provides. The growth and development that these experiences give our students shines through and makes our community very special and unique.

We are making the most of every opportunity to ensure we remain positive as the year continues. As always, we appreciate your support.

William Low

Headmaster/Chief Executive Officer

A day in the life of Sunny



Sunny the dog, our CCGS wellbeing ambassador celebrated her first birthday in March. We follow Sunny, an Australian Cobberdog, to discover what she gets up to in a typical day at CCGS and how she has quickly become a ray of sunshine for everyone.

7:00am

Wakey, wakey. It's time to rise and shine! A nice big breakfast helps to fuel the day ahead.



8:30am

Time to welcome students and help any children who feel a bit worried or anxious about leaving mum or dad. A quick game of ball, and a couple of ear scratches before heading into Chambers Administration.

9:00am

Briefing with Mr Low, Headmaster to discuss plans for the day.



9:30am

Head to the Library and listen to Year 6 students read.

"Older students often don't get a chance to read out loud. It is an important and essential skill for expression, rhythm and confidence. Sunny will sit very patiently and really enjoys being with the students," says Mrs Nadia Merchant, Head of Library and Information Services.

"Sunny creates a safe environment for them to tackle those tricky words and work on expression. She is a fantastic addition to our literacy program,"



10:30am

Time for a quick snack and snooze before heading to PDHPE.



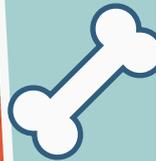
11:30am

Feeling energised, Sunny joins Mr Ryan Doherty's Year 9 PDHPE lesson. It's a chance to let off some steam, practice a few zoomies and show the students what 'running fast' really means.

Mr Doherty says, "Sunny brings an extra special energy that has even the most reluctant sportsperson moving and having fun.

Sunny shows the kids that

sport is about giving something a go, and trying something new. It's hard to resist Sunny's enthusiasm and our students really enjoy her company."



12:20pm

It's lunchtime, an opportunity to sit down and relax. Sunny sits outside with some of the Administration team.

Mrs Niamh Cox, Junior School Admin Manager says, "Sunny is great for student wellbeing, and she is equally important for staff too. We all love to give her a pat. She's a calming influence on our busy days and always brings a smile to everyone's faces."

12:45pm - Time for a rest



1:50pm

Meeting with Dr Kylie McIntyre, School Psychologist who takes Sunny and another student for a walk around the grounds.

"Initially I started using Sunny in a physical framework. We know that if we can get kids outside exercising then they will start to feel better about themselves. Now Sunny helps us socially as well. She creates a connection so we can build a rapport with kids. They open up about the concerns and problems they are experiencing. Sunny has become that bridge to help us give others the support they need."

2:30pm

Last period of the day and it's a chance to hang out in the Year 12 Common Room. HSC preparation can be tough going so it's important to take time to focus on your own wellbeing.

Students take Sunny for some pats and tickles.

Everyone leaves the day feeling relaxed and Sunny feels very loved.



4:00pm

Time to head home with Mrs Kate Yelds, Headmaster's PA and Sunny's primary carer. Sunny sneaks in a quick walk before having some dinner. Then Sunny catches up on her favourite show 'The Dog House'.



7:00pm

It's been a busy day! Straight to bed to catch some well-earned zzzz's.

Night night Sunny. Sweet dreams.





HSC results and life after high school

Outstanding HSC results saw CCGS rank 75 in the top 100 schools across NSW with 31% of students achieving an ATAR over 90 and 63% of all exams sat resulting in a Band 5 or 6. This is an impressive achievement as Year 12 2021 were heavily impacted by the pandemic throughout their HSC course.

“Studying for exams is challenging enough, without the disruption these young people have faced in the final two years of their schooling. I am very proud of their hopeful spirit, their care of each other and the power of their persistence,” said Headmaster, Mr William Low.

Mr Low paid tribute to teachers who provided every support to students, not only academically but to their wellbeing as well. He also acknowledged the strong support provided by families.

“More than ever, these achievements have been a true partnership between home and school and on behalf of the class of 2021, I thank everyone who has played a part in their success.”

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

- **Joshua Dickford** who was named **Dux of the School** with an ATAR of 99.35.
- Five students (**Lucinda Incoll, Annabella Poll, Louis Sturm, Eben Turner and Hugh Wassall**) were honoured by inclusion in the NSW Education Standards Authority

(NESA) **All Rounders** list for achieving Band 6 in 10 or more units of study.

- **Daisy Hughes** was accepted to showcase her Body of Work in **Art Express 2022**.
- **William Trethewy** was accepted to showcase his Major Work in **InTech**.
- **Hannah Stanley’s** Visual Arts HSC Body of Work was accepted for exhibition in **First Class 21**.
- **Tim Wilkins** ranked equal 7th in the state and was listed on NESA’s **Top Achievers** list for Science Extension.
- **Emily Anstice** was awarded a Distinction for her Society and Culture Personal Interest Project, which explored how the role of masculinity impacts climate denialism.

Interesting and varied future pathways have seen some students travel as far as New York, Canada and Germany to pursue their university careers. Closer to home students took up positions in places such as the University of Newcastle, University of New South Wales, Macquarie University and Australian National University.

The class of 2021 may have faced hardships along the way but they gained an inner strength and self-belief that will equip them well for life after school.

Students are following their dreams in fields such as paramedicine, dentistry, biomedicine, economics and more. Take a look Ashleigh, Jack and Ailbhe’s journeys on page 7 as they embark on their university careers.

You can read more on the future pathways of our 2021 cohort at ccgs.nsw.edu.au. If you are from the Class of 2021, reach out and let us know what you are doing.



Daisy Hughes' Body of Work in Art Express 2022

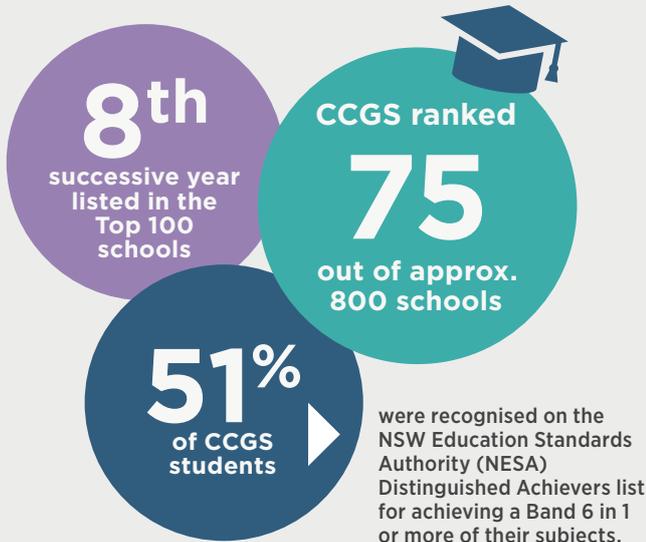


William Trethewy with his Major Work



Hannah Stanley's Visual Arts Body of Work

Results at a glance



ATAR Scores

15% of students scored over 95

31% of students scored over 90

41% of students scored over 85

56% of students scored over 80

63% of exams sat resulted in a Band 5 or 6

WE CAUGHT UP WITH THREE OF OUR GRADUATES TO SEE WHERE LIFE HAS TAKEN THEM IN 2022.



ASHLEIGH EURELL

During Year 12, Ashleigh was accepted into a Bachelor of Sports and Exercise Science at the University of Tasmania. However, after much consideration she decided to change degrees and follow her passion for the environment, a passion she says was realised and fuelled in Earth and Environmental classes at CCGS. She was accepted into a Bachelor of Marine and Antarctic Science.

Ashleigh describes the degree as “one of a kind in Australia and is offered at one of the best places in the world for temperate marine studies due to being surrounded by the Southern Ocean.” This degree has direct pathways with Antarctica and will provide her with the opportunity to travel there for research purposes.



JACK QUINLAN

Having always had a passion for innovation, it felt natural for Jack to head into engineering. His insatiable curiosity in a variety of fields led him to Software Engineering at the University of Sydney as the endless applications of software, to nearly every industry, sets up a strong foundation for innovation in the future.

Jack credits the rich variety of cocurricular at CCGS as essential in helping him develop strong foundations in his engineering skillset. From communication in Debating and Public Speaking, to programming and teamwork in Robotics, Jack shares that “these opportunities fostered the professional soft skills I will use for the rest of my life.”

In addition to his studies, Jack has joined a variety of university societies with a humanitarian, entrepreneurial or engineering focus.



AILBHE DOYLE

Ailbhe was accepted into the prestigious UTS Bachelor of Information Technology Co-op Scholarship. The scholarship WiEIT Co-op (Women in Engineering and IT) is aimed at students with high academic achievements who have a passion for technology, creativity and entrepreneurship.

Ailbhe is one of just 30 students to receive this high level placement that will give her real world experience through sponsor company industry placements. Ailbhe says “I’m not certain yet which branch of information technology I will take as there are so many options to choose from like cybersecurity, networking, enterprise systems development or business information systems management. When I complete my degree in 2024, I’ll either work full time with one of the sponsor companies or maybe travel and work in UK, USA or Europe.”

Out and About



JAMNESTY: ROCK 'N' RAISE



Jamnesty provides an amazing platform for our talented musicians and singers to rock-on for a good cause. This year CCGS raised \$843 to help relieve the Ukrainian humanitarian crisis.

Olivia Davis, Captain of the CCGS Amnesty International Group said, "It was great to see so many people come together for Jamnesty 2022! Thank you to those who donated – we were so fortunate to be able to do something positive for those who are affected by the conflict in Ukraine."

Congratulations to Big-Nee and the G-Shocks for winning the popular vote and taking home the Jamnesty 2022 trophy.



A CUPPA ON THE HOUSE

Y7, Y8 and Y12 families were invited to join staff for morning tea. Y7 and Y8 morning teas were split into House groups allowing each family to connect face-to-face with the Middle School team and each other. Y12 families came together for a delicious breakfast in the Senior College common room. It provided the perfect opportunity to catch up with educators and friends.



NAPLAN RESULTS RANK CCGS IN TOP 100

CCGS was the only Central Coast school to be listed in the Daily Telegraph's top 100 primary schools in NSW, coming 51st based on average NAPLAN scores. We were also the only non-selective Central Coast school to be listed in the top 100 secondary schools, coming 60th. Congratulations to students, families, and staff.

FLYING HIGH

The CCGS Drone team have taken to the sky in Term 2 to capture images and 360 videos of the grounds, changing seasons, cross country, student competitions and more – all from a bird's eye view.



CAMBODIA FUNDRAISING BBQS ARE BACK ...



And they are more popular than ever!

With restrictions lifting, we were delighted to cook up a sausage feast and cake extravaganza to raise funds to help support and build houses for disadvantaged families in rural Cambodia.



Thanks to everyone's support so far, our BBQ's have raised nearly \$5,000. Amazing!



LIVING IN A MULTICULTURAL CCGS

To celebrate Harmony Day students explored what life is like for them growing up in a multicultural Australia. A Public Speaking competition presented insightful thinking on topics like 'Language Matters' and 'A Safe Place to Call Home', students from Kindy to Y12 shared how to say 'Hello and How are you?' in another language and, a Harmony Day parade lit up the Junior School area.



DANCE, SING AND PLAY

Dance, Choir and Music ensembles have been busy competing in Dance Life Unite and Sydney Eisteddfod with fantastic results:

- 1st place, Senior Extension Dance (pictured)
- 3rd place, Middle School Contemporary
- 4th place, Junior Dance Company
- 4th place, Senior School Contemporary
- 3rd place, Senior Vocal Ensemble
- Highly Commended, Senior Choir
- 3rd place, Symphony Orchestra

Congratulations all!

CCGS IN BRAIN EISTEDDFOD

13 students in Y11 were selected to audition for a new Network 10 TV quiz show hosted by comedian Shaun Micallef. Congratulations to Catherine Purcell, Stella Hannagan, Michael Lin and Nick Moroney who made the final four.

They headed to Sydney in June to film the show. Look out for them when they hit the small screen later in the year!



SWIMMING RECORDS BROKEN



Congratulations to Hayden McGregor (Y8 - pictured left) who broke the 14 year boys 50m Freestyle and Butterfly (both records held by Ryan Johnson, 2001) and 50m Breaststroke (Jonathan King, 1999). The 16 year boys 50m Freestyle (Ryan Johnson, 2003) was broken by Jack Woodhouse (Y10 - pictured right).

Joshua Yeo (Y11) broke the 16 year boys 50m Breaststroke (Benjamin Reid, 1997). Congratulations to the 11-14 boys Banksia Junior Relay team who also broke the relay record.

International Women's Day: #breakthebias



We welcomed some of the inspirational people behind the Zonta International Club of the Central Coast to lead our International Women's Day celebrations raising awareness against bias. Teachers led discussions about the meaning of bias and discrimination and students were challenged to think about the actions they can take to #breakthebias.

International Women's Day is a global event celebrating women's social, economic, cultural, and political achievements.



Kindy hits the Rugby field

In a first ever, our new Kindergarten Rugby enthusiasts are hitting the fields in the Central Coast Junior Rugby Union competition.

With smiles on their faces and incredible team spirit, they are out to win!



Editor for a Day



Six of our committed Junior School readers were chosen to read a pre-release book and write a review which will be published in PK Magazine online! It's a great opportunity to engage some of our passionate readers in the publication process as well as writing and editing.

CAMPS COME TO CCGS



Wet weather in Semester One meant the cancellation of many of our school camps. But that did not stop us from getting into the camp spirit. If we couldn't go on school camp, then we would bring school camp to CCGS!

Y5 enjoyed a sleepover in the Junior School neighbourhood areas and Y7 to Y11 learned how to construct tents and tarps, cook outside on a portable stoves and work in teams through a series of challenges.

Parent and Child Art Club



Over five stimulating weeks, parents and children from Kindy to Y9 came together to let their creative juices flow in our Parent and Child Art Club.

Taking inspiration from their loved ones, families had the choice of creating a contemporary still life painting or a large scale portrait.



Centre Stage

Keeva Brodt-Fisher (Y7 - pictured left) was selected for YIPA (Youth In Performing Arts) to perform a monologue at the Laycock Street Theatre. Keeva won the Theatre Encouragement award and was selected as the best Drama act at the event.

Hazel Hunt (Y11 - pictured right) competed in the Sydney Eisteddfod 'Drama Monologue' in the 17-19 age group. She achieved a remarkable third place in this hotly contested event, with a score of 96/100.



Pictured above CCGS Equestrian team with Wayne Roycroft

Ride like an Olympian

CCGS EQUESTRIAN MEMBERS ACHIEVE GREAT RESULTS IN 2022.

It's been a busy and productive season so far for our Equestrian team.

Klara Denny (Year 12) and her horse Bello Gallico (*pictured*) won 'The Young Riders Freestyle' award to music at the Agnes Bank Equine Clinic. Amazing results from the team Captain!

In show jumping and showing, Cody McPherson (Year 11) won 5th place in the 1m05-1m20 class at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, and looking adorable when they trotted out at the show were Elken and Mila Caska (Year 2).

At the one day event 'Quirindi Eventing', Amy Thomson (Year 6) finished 15th in her first 80cm and jumped like a champion at Stonewall.

In Eventing, our team had the chance to walk the CC14* (Competition de Complet Internationale 4*) at the International Sydney three day competition with three-time Olympic champion, Wayne Roycroft.

Wayne has won two bronze medals for Australia. When Wayne turned his hand to coaching from 1988 to 2010, he fast became one of Australia's most accomplished and successful coaches.

Under Wayne's guidance, the Australian Eventing team won three Olympic team medals and two individual medals.

Olympic Equestrian rider Stuart Tinney, who designed the CC14* course, also joined students. Stuart won a gold team medal for Australia at the 2000 Olympics and a bronze team medal at the 2016 Olympics.

Both Olympians had some sound advice for our Equestrian team and shared their in-depth knowledge on how to negotiate jumps and what factors influence difficulty at each particular jump.

An absolute highlight for everyone was having the privilege of both Wayne and Stuart sign the CCGS Equestrian team polo shirt.

"What an incredible start to 2022 for our Equestrian members at CCGS. Our next big event is the 2022 Equestrian NSW State Interschool Championships.

We are so proud of their achievements and the training they do to achieve the best results," said Miss Elsa Ribal-Vigneau, CCGS Equestrian convenor.



Going Green

As a School we are looking for ways we can reduce our impact on the environment.

Waste Free Wednesdays are back in Junior School with the help of the CCGS Environmental Action Group (EAG). Australia is one of the highest producers of waste per person in the western world. According to the Waste Wise Schools Program, an average student's lunch generates a total of 3kg of waste per year.

Waste Free Wednesday is a great way to:

- reduce food and packaging waste in our school.
- help us all understand the benefits of a waste-free lunch.
- inspire the CCGS community to avoid and recover waste wherever possible.

Changing behaviour and creating actions to encourage people to be involved and active in environmental stewardship are two of the main philosophies behind the Environmental Action Group. As well as seeking to change the way we think about our own waste, the group also inspired over 100 actions as part of Cleanup Australia Day.

Students from Kindergarten to Year 12 teamed up with friends and family to clean up local areas. The annual cleanup event provided a timely reminder of the impact of litter and debris on our environment particularly after the wet season NSW has experienced.

The feeling of helping to clean up a local area cannot be beaten. Daniel Vickers in Year 10 said, "It felt rewarding making the beaches cleaner for everyone to enjoy and reducing the amount of plastic endangering sea and wildlife." For Knoa Casey Fernandez in Year 5, it was a chance to spend time with his family, "I felt happy because I got to spend time doing an activity with my family that

was helping the planet."

If you're looking for inspiration to go waste free head to ccgs.nsw.edu.au/news for the EAG's top Waste Free Wednesday tips.

Environmental sustainability is a key part of the School's *Striving for Excellence* strategic plan 2021-2025. Reducing the amount of rubbish we produce is one thing we can all do to help.

As a School, we are looking into ways we can reduce our impact on the environment. Some measures we've taken so far include introducing solar panning which now generates some of our electricity, installing LED lights throughout the buildings, implementing biodegradable packaging in the canteen and smart metering throughout the School to monitor our water usage. Of course, there is more to do but we're making some great progress!





Languages Week goes school-wide

Bonjour, Konnichiwa, Nǐ hǎo.

The School came alive with language and culture for Languages Week – a whole week dedicated to exploring cultures and celebrating language learning.

Now in its second year, Languages Week went school-wide with Junior School getting in on the action as well!

Students from K to 4 were treated to a scrumptious French croissant and Years 5 to 6 had the chance to sample onigiri – a delicious Japanese rice ball. And for some, it was their first time sampling a different cuisine.

“I’ve never had onigiri before. They are yummy. I wish I had these every day,” said one Year 5 student.

At lunchtime, fun cultural games kept our language enthusiasts entertained. Excited students learned daruma otoshi, fukuwarai, otedama, jianzi and le jeu du bétet.

Over in senior school, students immersed themselves in Chinese, French and Japanese culture, expressions, games and arts.

Students learned the traditional crafts of origami, shibori, calligraphy and paper cutting. Competitive spirit was high with a Japanese kendama competition and students decorated French crêpes with scrumptious confiture and citron.

Mr Aaron McLuckie, Head of Languages said, “Learning a language allows you to see the world through a different lens and experience the richness of other cultures. It’s wonderful to see Languages Week grow this year.”

Year 8 practised their culinary and language skills cooking up a feast of crêpes, yakiudon and pork dumplings.

Students learning Japanese also had the opportunity to make new friendships and strengthen connections with our sister school, Kanto Daiichi through zoom calls.

To end the week, a Languages Food Fair was held. Queues of students lined up to try dumplings, croissants and yakisoba.

Added Mr McLuckie, “Watching students from Kindy to Year 12 celebrate another culture and experience something new was wonderful. It is these kinds of experiences that make Languages Week very special.”



A LESSON IN RESILIENCE



IMAGE CREDIT: Matt Graham

CCGS alumni Matt 'Mogul' Graham's (2012) dream of a medal at the Winter Olympics in Beijing, may not have come true but his resilience, good spirit and sportsmanship is a lesson for us all.

The School excitedly burst into Term 1 proudly displaying their support for Mighty Mogul Matt. Video and photo messages flooded the School's social media, all sharing our encouragement and well wishes for the former silver medal Olympian. Matt even posted his own message of thanks to CCGS families on his Instagram page all the way from Beijing.

However, when Matt missed out on qualifications for the finals, 2022 was not to be his Olympic year. Matt said, "This is honestly the most pain and heartbroken I've ever felt. The broken collarbone obviously hurt but this hurts a lot more".

Matt's preparation for the Games had been interrupted when he broke his

collarbone last December and had to have surgery. However, he did not blame the injury for his performance.

"Everything was there, the whole package was there, I just didn't execute. I got caught up in challenging conditions with wind and firm snow and sharp moguls," said Matt.

Despite Matt's devastation, he pushed those feelings aside immediately putting his attention on supporting his teammates through the next mogul rounds.

"Matt helped us learn one of the most important lessons of all - part of aiming high and believing in ourselves is learning how to accept setbacks when things don't go our way. This reflects so many of our values here at

CCGS," said Headmaster, Mr Bill Low.

"Matt may not have realised his hopes and dreams. But his tenacity in preparing for the Olympics so quickly after an injury and showing up, staying up and continuing to support his teammates fully and wholeheartedly, despite his own disappointment, shows a person's true value and worth," added Mr Low.

Matt proved to everyone the real meaning of sportsmanship. He displayed tenacity, kindness, respect and integrity. Well done Matt, you're an inspiration and role model to us all.





Headmaster's Welcome Gathering

A FANTASTIC EVENING WAS HAD BY ALL AT THE HEADMASTER'S WELCOME GATHERING HELD IN MARCH.

It was lovely to welcome so many CCGS families - new and old - to connect with one another and CCGS educators and staff in an informal setting.

The Junior School neighbourhood areas provided the perfect venue for parents and carers to flow out into the expansive courtyard, chat to old friends and make new.

The Headmaster's Welcome Gathering is a traditional annual event but for the past three years it has been postponed thanks to wild weather and COVID restrictions.

This year's gathering was extra special. It gave families an opportunity to look around the new Junior School and Senior College - some for the very first time. Lana King, President of the P&F welcomed the crowd.

Lana said, "The Headmaster's Gathering commences our commitment to the P&F's core principles of community and building a sense of belonging."

"The Headmaster's Gathering commences our commitment to the P&F's core principles of community and building a sense of belonging."

"Having so many parents come together and celebrate was a fabulous way to start the year," Lara added.

Headmaster, Mr Bill Low praised the community for their cohesiveness and resilience in working with the school during COVID to ensure student wellbeing and academic learning were maintained.

A huge thank you to the P&F and Fathers' Group who organised the event.

It was a brilliant evening for everyone.



Where are they now?

They are the leaders and high academic achievers of CCGS each year. But what does life look like beyond the classroom for the students that fulfill the role of Head Prefect or hold the accolade as Dux?

LANA KING, 1994 – HEAD PREFECT

I completed an honours degree in Psychology at the University of Sydney and was accepted into a general management graduate program at Telstra. I worked at Telstra for seven years, focusing on general management and cultural change programs. I then joined American Express in a Regional HR role and moved to Singapore. I was based there for nearly 10 years, working for AMEX and then joined ANZ as Head of HR for Financial Markets. Since returning to Australia, I am taking



a career break as we resettle our three children into CCGS.

Together with my family, we lived overseas for 10 years and I have travelled extensively for work and for leisure. I feel very lucky to have experienced such diversity in culture and people.

NICOLA ROSENBERG (NÉE DEALL), 1998 – HEAD PREFECT

Today I am the Chief People Officer of Dentalcorp, a listed healthcare company in Toronto, Canada where I live with my husband and two sons.

There are many CCGS experiences that prepared me for where I am today, including attending the outward-bound camp which built resilience, self-reliance and teamwork in a way that no other experience really does as well. I attended Sewickley Academy as the first CCGS International Exchange



student. This had a big impact on me and was the driving reason why I took a role overseas in North America. I wanted to give my kids a similar experience.

LOUIS DROGUETT, 1999 - DUX

Most recently I joined a disruptive fintech, Recreo Financial, where I hold the role of Chief Delivery Officer. I have the incredible challenge to lead the Solution Delivery, Production Support, Feature Engineering, IT Operations, and Quality Assurance departments to re-create administration for the superannuation industry.

Professionally, my proudest moments are being part of the teams



that pioneered advances in the Australian financial technology industry. Some of the smartest minds were working together to break new ground and overcome challenges to delight and streamline digital experiences for users and members.

SOPHIA GERAKIOS, 2004 - DUX

I am currently based in Hong Kong and have worked for financial services institutions as an inhouse international employment lawyer advising on employment issues across several countries in the Asia Pacific region. I love doing international work as there are always important cultural and legal factors specific to each country to consider.

I am proud that I took the plunge to move overseas and have seized the



opportunity to expand my horizons, travel, experience new places and become a more open-minded global citizen.

JAMES FOLEY, 2004 - HEAD PREFECT

I am working as a barrister in Sydney, and I live on the Central Coast with my family.

There are many CCGS experiences that prepared me for where I am now. Rugby and Basketball did not come naturally to me and learning how to work and put in consistent effort was of great value. Going on tours for Music (Japan in 1998) and Rugby (North America in 2002) were also great experiences for personal growth.

Finally, the academic side of Years 11 and 12 were invaluable. I was taught (by very smart and passionate teachers) how to organise and



approach my work, and most importantly how to think about complicated issues and concepts. My teachers were exceptional, and they prepared me, not just for university but, for the workplace and my adult life in general. My classmates during Years 11 and 12 also taught me a great deal about the different ways to approach issues and ideas.

CHRISTIAN WHITFIELD, 2013 - HEAD PREFECT

Since graduating I have worked at Wesfarmers, notably in their industrials portfolio. I've had a number of roles across mergers and acquisitions, investor relations and corporate strategy. I currently run the strategy team for one of the Wesfarmers businesses.

Being Head Prefect at CCGS gave me an invaluable insight into working autonomously. It is a role that can be as



large or as small as the holder likes. Having an early experience of what each end of the effort-scale feels like has really set me up.

GORDON REID, 2010 - HEAD PREFECT

After finishing the International Baccalaureate, I completed my medical degree at the University of Newcastle with distinction.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I worked as a medical officer in the Wyong Hospital Emergency Department.

Recently I had the honour of being elected as Federal Member for Robertson.



It is, and always will be, a privilege to serve the people of the Central Coast.

JESSICA REDMOND, 2013 - HEAD PREFECT

I'm a doctor at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. I am currently training to become a specialist Neurologist and am lucky enough to be completing my physician training in a hospital with a Neurology service that is known as one of the strongest in Australia.

I think a culmination of the broad range of curricular and cocurricular activities I was able to experience at CCGS - from studying extension subjects, team sports, school productions, music ensembles, debating and international trips - equipped me with the



communication and interpersonal skills, as well as the learning tools I needed, to become a good doctor.

However, the main experience that most prepared me would be the incredible teachers who empowered me in a way that has positively changed my life forever and I will always be grateful.

Alumni news

Were you a Head Prefect or the Dux of CCGS? We'd love to hear from you. Get in touch at alumni@ccgs.nsw.edu.au.

Their paths are varied, and their careers and lives have seen them travel to many parts of the globe. Our Head Prefects and Duxes are confident, caring, well balanced, mature and articulate citizens. Their journeys demonstrate the ability to thrive in a rapidly changing world, to draw on collaboration skills and have the capacity for innovation. It is this enterprising spirit CCGS aims to instill in all our graduates. You can view their full profiles, and many more from our past Head Prefects and Duxes, at ccgs.nsw.edu.au/news.



CENTRAL COAST
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Arundel Road, Erina Heights NSW 2260, Australia

T +61 2 4367 6766 **F** +61 2 4365 1860

W www.ccgsw.edu.au **E** info@ccgs.nsw.edu.au

ABN 85 002 839 607 CRICOS Provider Code: 02261G