Welcome Year 7

Welcome Year 7 2017 and all our new students. It certainly has been a very warm welcome at Tech this year with temperatures at record January levels. Well done to students for maintaining their cool and looking so smart in their new uniforms. I do hope that their time at Tech gives them enduring friendships, and a love of learning that will last a lifetime. This year we have students from 83 different primary schools who travelled from as far away as Wagga Wagga and Queensland to join the school. Our boys are truly multicultural with 25 different language backgrounds. Year 7 have had a short transition program this week, and this will be followed by a camp where they will hopefully establish connections with each other, and have fun. Our major feeder schools this year were Hurstville PS and Strathfield South PS who have come to Tech with a 12 strong peer group. Year 7 will be very well looked after by their Year 9 Peer Support leaders, who completed their training at the end of 2016.
Ms Nin Eath is the Year 7 Year Adviser, and is on hand to assist Year 7 with any emerging problems, and to help them settle into school. Ms Susan Faulder has ensured the smooth running of the transition program. New students in other years are mentored by Ms Jenny Haitidis who is a longstanding member of the English staff. We are looking forward to meeting all new parents at our P&C hosted Welcome BBQ on Thursday 9 February at school. The BBQ will be held in the Canteen area from 5.30-7.30 pm.

HSC RESULTS
The school continued its record of distinguished HSC results. 13 students were on the Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES) Top Achievers List. By the way BOSTES has now been renamed NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). We were very pleased to hear that Chester Cao came first in the State in Engineering Studies, with Ryan Betbeder Matibet 5th and Joshua Ibanez Cruz 8th confirming how exceptional our students are. In Legal Studies, Tandee Wang was 5th in the state, and 14th in Modern History. Alex Zhu was 3rd in the State in Extension 2 Mathematics, and Matthew Situ was 1st in the State in Heritage Chinese, although this was taught outside the school. As in previous years the majority of our HSC courses were well above the State mean. Of note was Business Studies 13.81 above the State and Engineering Studies 12.95. In addition Legal Studies was 11.11 and Biology 10.11 above State mean. A breakdown of all of these results will be published shortly in the School’s 2016 Annual School Report. It is important to acknowledge that our state rankings demonstrate that our students can do well in any curriculum they wish to study: mathematics; humanities, sciences. Our expert hard working teachers have the skills to encourage all students to achieve their personal best no matter where student talent lies.

STAFFING
We are very pleased to welcome the following new permanent staff to the school:
Nathan Ngan - English. Nathan is a targeted graduate and was a student at Oatley Senior Campus where he was taught by an ex student from Tech, Ben North who is Head Teacher English there. A graduate from the University of Sydney, Nathan studied English, History and ESL, completing his teaching practice with an exchange program in Japan.
Andy Cachia joins us in TAS from Busby HS where he was Year 12 Year Adviser, and a member of the wellbeing team, as well as having responsibility for Duke of Edinburgh programs. In addition he is qualified to teach VET Entertainment, so we may yet have some interesting musicals.
Pamela Stergiou joins the Mathematics Faculty. She was an intern in the school in 2016, completing her Masters in Education for The University of Sydney. She also studied psychology. Pamela was dux of Penshurst Girls while I was Principal there, and it is most rewarding to see that she chose education as a career, rather than investment banking.
Antoinette Johnston has joined the Social Science Faculty as an Economics and Business Studies teacher. Antoinette was an intern at Tech in 2016, contributing her expertise to new programs. Antoinette was an undergraduate at The University of Sydney, and then went to UNSW to complete her Master of Teaching Degree. An avid adventurer and traveller, she has travelled in far away places like Norway and USA.
Jay Dahl is our new school counsellor who has been appointed permanently to the school. For the last four years he has worked as a counsellor in a special school at Holdsworthy with students with intellectual and behavioural disabilities. Originally a Primary teacher, Jay took the opportunity to retrain with the Department in counselling. Jay has taught extensively across the State.
We also have a significant number of temporary staff who are replacing permanent staff taking leave prior to retirement who I welcome to the school.
FOCUS 2017
We are looking forward to a very productive and successful 2017. Our focus will be on quality teaching and we were delighted to welcome Professor Jenny Gore from the University of Newcastle Faculty of Education. Professor Gore is a popular presenter, and we had to wait a year before she was able to share her knowledge of the Quality Teaching Framework with us. Our major focus will be on quality assessment procedures and practices and how we can ensure that we are asking for intellectual quality in our assessments.

SCHOOL CONTACTS
We have a Parent partnership program which moves into Year 11 in 2017 which has been endorsed by many parents. The program appears elsewhere in the newsletter. We try as far as possible to respond to your interests and to support the home school partnership. Please come to our first P&C meeting for the year on Tuesday 7 February in the school common room at 7pm. All welcome.
Do not hesitate to contact the school if you want to talk to me about the education of your son. We have a great team at Tech, and I look forward to working with you.

Jacqueline Lyons
Principal

SCHOOL CALENDAR
February
7  School Photos
7  Second Hand Uniform Shop
   - Vera’s Cottage
7  P&C Meeting 7pm in the Common Room
9  P&C New student/parent BBQ - 5.30pm
   Canteen Covered Area
10 Speech Day
10 Year 7 Swimming Pre Test
14 Swimming Carnival
16 Year 8 Parent Partnership Meeting 9am
21 Year 10 Parent Partnership Meeting 9am
22 Year 11 Parent Partnership Meeting 9am
23 Year 7 Parent Partnership Meeting 9am
28 Year 9 Parent Partnership Meeting 9am

March
6  Zone Swimming Carnival
7  P&C Meeting 7pm in the Common Room
7  International Women’s Day Breakfast
8  International Women’s Day
10 Zone Swimming Carnival

This calendar is a general guide. Sometimes event dates change unexpectedly. For a full up to date list of school activities please refer daily to the school calendar via the school intranet.
Welcome back to a new year at Sydney Technical High School and welcome to our new students and their families.

Student Wellbeing is of paramount importance to us at Sydney Technical High School. If parents need to talk to someone about their son, you may contact either Deputy Principal, although it may be preferable to speak to the Deputy who handles your son's year: Mr Grinham will monitor Years 7, 9 and 11 and Mrs Wilson Years 8, 10 and 12. Alternatively, you may contact the Head Teacher Wellbeing, Mr Stokes, or the appropriate Year Adviser. Year 7 – Ms Eath, Year 8 – Ms Mac, Year 9 – Mr Gamage, Year 10 – Ms Sugowdz, Year 11 – Ms Campbell, Year 12 – Mr Brown.

UNIFORM

STHS is a uniform school and our students should be proud to be seen in their uniform. Details about correct school uniform are listed in the school diary.

Regulation shoes are black leather and not joggers or any other type of footwear. The wearing of black sport shoes, joggers or boots has never been endorsed. Belts must be black or grey. All students must be in correct uniform each day - this includes ties being done up, shirts tucked in, long socks (worn with shorts) pulled up and hats removed inside school buildings. All students are permitted to wear the official school sports uniforms on Wednesdays, but must not wear a combination of school and sports uniforms.

Students not in correct uniform must see Mr Hewett, HT Administration, or a Deputy Principal before school with a note from home in order to obtain a uniform pass. If a student does not have the official pass, he will be automatically placed on Friday detention.

TECHNOLOGY

All members of the school community should now be informed of the changes to student use of their BYODs now in effect. These devices are strictly for educational purposes while on the school premises. No devices are to be used at any times for recreational use. Students who need to use their device for school needs during recess or lunch can do so in the library or under the direct supervision of a teacher. Phones are not appropriate forms of BYOD.

LATENESS AND LEAVING EARLY

Students who arrive late must sign in at the office to gain an entry slip. They need to bring a note from home explaining their lateness. Seniors who have non-timetabled first period lessons are to attend rollcall then go to the Library. They are not permitted to come late to school. All Year 12 students who have returned permission notes, may leave after their last timetabled class but must sign out at the front office. Year 12 students who do not have timetabled lessons during the day may not leave the school grounds, but may use the library for private study. Students needing to leave early for urgent matters must bring a note to be signed by a Deputy Principal before roll call then take it to the front office. Medical/dental appointments should be made out of school hours.
PARKING

Parents who pick up their sons after school should do so at the back of the school in Ethel Street. There is plenty of parking and very little traffic in that street. It is too busy and too dangerous to stop in Anderson Street since staff and senior students are leaving at the same time. Please do not double-park, or park across driveways as it is both illegal and dangerous. The Anderson Street and Forest Road car parks are for staff only. Please be aware of Bus Zones and No Stopping Zones.

SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER BLADES, MOBILES PHONES AND OTHER VALUABLES

Students and parents are reminded that skateboards and roller blades are banned from the school. It is also most unwise to bring valuable equipment to school. If students bring a mobile phone, it must be turned off inside buildings and may not be used during school hours – turn them off between 8.45 and 3.05. Wallets and valuables must never be left in unattended bags. If a student must bring a large amount of money to school, it should be left in the front office for safekeeping during the day. Electronic devices should be kept with the students and are not to be used at recess or lunch in the playground. Should students need to use their device for school work at recess or lunch, they should access the school library.

ILLNESS

Students who are ill during the day or who have an accident must report to the front office. They are not to phone parents directly. That is the responsibility of the office staff, who have very clear procedures to follow when students attend sick bay at school. Parents will be phoned if the office staff and Deputy Principals believe that the student should be taken home or an ambulance needs to be called. It is essential that the school has correct contact details. Have you changed phone or mobile phone numbers recently? Please let the school know. This is also important for notification of student absences.

STUDENTS DRIVING TO SCHOOL

Senior students who drive to school are reminded of the following:

• There is no student parking in any of the school car parks, including the Anderson Street and Forest Road car parks. Vehicles are to be parked in the streets surrounding the school.

• Students are not to leave the school grounds during the school day, except at the conclusion of lessons for the day. Study periods must be conducted in the library.

• Drivers and their passengers are to lodge driver/passenger information forms with Mrs Wilson.

• Remember to drive safely and abide by the road rules which are there for your protection.

SUPERVISION BEFORE SCHOOL

Supervision of students before school begins at 8.30am. There is a very low incidence of accidents in the playground before school, which reflects the nature of the student body and their level of maturity. The playgrounds present no obvious hazards in terrain or equipment, nor are they adjacent to any busy road.

Students should not be present in the school grounds before 8.30 am. Parents remain responsible for their sons until 8.30 am when staff supervision begins. From 8.30 until 8.45 am the Principal and/or Deputy Principals and/or Head Teacher Administration will be available in the administration block to attend to any incidents which may occur. There are also senior classes before and after school and the library will be open for students undertaking research work.

The reliance of students on school buses as the main form of transport results in the majority arriving at school shortly before the commencement of lessons.
PHOTOGRAPHS
Occasionally staff take photos of individual students or groups of students for various school forums, such as the school website, Tech Talk, the annual Journal, the annual school report, school year photo, artwork and other internal purposes. No photos are ever taken for commercial purposes or for outside groups. Any individual photo taken, such as for the recently updated website, is always with the individual student’s permission. Any parent who does not wish his/her son to be photographed will need to put that request in writing and provide it to the Deputy Principal, Mrs Wilson, by 24 February. In such cases it will be the responsibility of the student to remove himself from any activity where photography may occur.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS
School Photographs will be taken on Tuesday 7 February in the auditorium. Information has been distributed through rollcall. The preferred method of payment is online but payment to the photographers on the day will also be accepted. All students are to be photographed whether they are purchasing or not. The photos are used for student ID cards. The schedule for the day will be on noticeboards around the school.

TRANSITION SURVEY RESULTS
Successfully transitioning 150 new Year 7 students, sometimes from over 100 different primary schools, takes time and the efforts of many. It has its challenges, one of them being their enculturation into their new school setting and adjusting to new or different expectations. In 2017, every new Year 7 student completed a transition survey in their first week. All questions were designed for the school to obtain useful information about who these students are and where they have come from. Knowing our students greatly increases our effectiveness as educators.

Below is a snapshot of some of the more interesting results.

• 15% come from an Opportunity Class (OC) school setting.
• 72% come from a comprehensive public primary school – 10% Catholic School
• 51% have SRC, Prefect, Leadership experience

• 27% study a musical instrument outside of school
• 36% represented their primary school in Zone sport
• 15 students were Dux of their primary school
• 85% identified Mathematics as their strength and 50% identified PDHPE as an area requiring improvement
• 22% identified iPads as their primary technology device at primary school
• 19% come from a BYOD primary school
• On a typical Year 6 night, 40% of students had 0-30 minutes of school homework. 27% had 30-45 minutes and 21% had 45-60 minutes.
• 25% take more than 60 minutes to travel to Tech each day.
• The three most common concerns about transition to high school included:
  - none
  - homework, and
  - getting lost
• 82% received tuition for the Selective School Entry examinations. 82% currently receive no tutoring.
• 63% do not have their own private space for study at home.
• 90% report they were taught research skills at primary school, 73% note taking and 38% word banking.

THE WYKEHAM AWARD
The Wykeham Award was introduced at Sydney Tech in 2013. The aim of the Wykeham Award is to recognise and encourage student participation in a wide range of activities associated with the school. It will tie in with the Board of Studies’ Record of Student Achievement (ROSA) that is given to students who leave school prior to the completion of the HSC. This prestigious award is such that students receive credit for their overall involvement in both school life and out-of-school life, while still supporting the school merit awards system. It will also be most beneficial for students when applying for scholarships, cadetships or employment.

There are three categories of awards:
• Junior for Years 7 and 8
• Intermediate for Years 9 and 10
• Senior for Year 11 and 12
IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

A student in our school is currently receiving treatment which results in a lowered immune system. This means that the student is more prone to getting ill from infections. As the student is not contagious but has a chronic illness, it is important that he participates actively in the day to day school program without any major limitations.

A major concern is that if this student develops measles, chicken pox, whooping cough or influenza, he could become seriously ill. It is important that we prevent this situation from occurring.

If your child has or may have measles or chicken pox, it is important that you:
1. Do not send them to school
2. Notify the School Principal as soon as possible.
3. Take them to your GP or medical centre to confirm diagnosis if possible.
Welcome back to all our returning students and their families and a warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and their parents. I hope you have all had a relaxing break, ready to start the 2017 school year. In the first week of Term 1 all of our new Year 7 students participated in three days of transition activities to help them settle into High School followed by a Peer Support session led by the new Year 9 student leaders.

There are some new and returning faces to the Wellbeing team in 2017: Nin Eath (Year 7 Adviser), Wendy Mac (Year 8 Adviser), Julie Ryan (Relieving Year 9 Adviser) whilst Shane Gamage relieves as Head Teacher Visual Arts/Music/LOTE, Eugenie Sugowdz (Year 10 Adviser), Ellen Campbell (Relieving Year 11 Adviser), and Nathan Brown (Year 12 Adviser). Gai Primmer and Anne Caldwell will continue as the school’s Learning and Support Teachers (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays) and our new school counsellor this year is Jay Dahl. Arthur Zigas continues in his role as Careers Adviser, Sue Faulder is our Junior Transition Coordinator and Jenny Haitidis will be the Transition Coordinator for new students coming to Tech in Years 8–12. Kirk Grinham will be the Deputy Principal for (Years 7, 9 and 11) whilst Diane Wilson is the Deputy for (Years 8, 10 and 12).

For our new parents, the Wellbeing Team is usually the first point of contact when contacting the school with issues about the wellbeing of your sons and are available to assist you should the need arise.

Sydney Technical High School has high expectations of all of its students and this includes their attendance. The school must adhere to State and Federal legislature around this as it ensures all children, up to the age of 17, attend school. The demographics of the students at STHS mean that many are travelling long distances each day and rely on public transport that can sometimes be delayed. In these unforeseen instances, the school is always understanding. Where such understanding expires is when student absenteeism and/or lateness becomes too frequent. Students who know that their transport links are unreliable in allowing them to arrive on time to school every day are strongly encouraged to make alternative arrangements. This may mean walking and leaving home earlier. All students are allowed three instances of unexplained lateness to school every term before they will receive an after school detention.

Keeping an accurate and appropriate record of student attendance is a legal requirement of all schools. A student’s attendance record is also a valuable tool for potential universities and employers when ascertaining a person’s reliability and punctuality. STHS is aware of this and ensures that attendance is always printed on every semester report. Department of Education (DoE) procedures states that parents will have seven days to explain their child’s absence (via SMS, letter etc.) before the absence will be recorded as unexplained. The school is no longer required to retrospectively amend a student’s attendance record after the seven days have lapsed ie if a parent brings in a note with several dates from throughout the year all deemed ‘sick’.
Should you have further questions around this, please contact the school. Full school attendance is a vital part of education and encourages active and responsible participation. We appreciate your support in this important issue.

Nick Stokes
Head Teacher Wellbeing

PARENT PARTNERSHIP meetings
School Common Room - 9am

DATES FOR TERM 1

Year 7  Meet the Team and School Curriculum
Thursday 23 February
Year 8  Metacognitive Skills for Adolescent Learners
Thursday 16 February
Year 9  Lessons Beyond the Classroom
Tuesday 28 February
Year 10  Work Experience: What Parents Should Know
Tuesday 21 February
Year 11  HSC Preparation
Wednesday 22 February

School Second Hand Uniform Shop

The Second Hand Uniform Shop is located in Vera’s Cottage. The Second Hand Uniform Shop is run by volunteers.

During the school terms, the Second Hand Uniform Shop is usually open on the Second Tuesday of each calendar month, from 10.30am-12 noon.

In February the Uniform shop will be open on Tuesday 7 February as the swimming carnival will be on the second Tuesday of the month.

Come along and grab a bargain. If you have any donations of used uniform items, please send them to the Office.

Change of Mobile Phone Numbers and Addresses

If you have changed your mobile phone number, email or mailing address, please contact the school immediately so that we can update our records.

Sick Bay and your Son

If you receive a phone call from the office informing you that your son is unwell and in sick bay, you must attend to this promptly and collect your son as soon as possible.

Your son cannot be left in sick bay for lengthy periods of time.
Welcome back to the start of a new year. A special welcome to the Year 7 students and their parents who are starting a brand new chapter of their life at Sydney Tech.

P&C COMMITTEE
We have a new committee at the P&C comprising of new and old hands and we are ready to take on the challenges of the new year. Our main aim is to assist the school and the teaching staff in enriching the experience of our sons at Sydney Technical High School. We are a group of friendly fun loving parents and would like a lot more of you to join us in assisting the STHS executive committee in achieving this goal.

Through funds raised by the P&C levy last year we managed to assist the school in many ways including funding the purchase of school books, purchase of sport and gym equipment, student computers, building a covered walkway between buildings etc.

The P&C also participates and assists the school in hiring of new teachers, selection of head teachers, new enrolments etc. The P&C is also involved in special events such as Speech Day. So there is no excuse not to join in and have your voice heard as we all try to do our utmost to give the best to our children, the most valued treasures of our lives.

MEETINGS
The P&C meets first Tuesday of the month at 7.00 pm in the common room (1st Floor, A Block) during the school term. We normally have a guest speaker for the evening who will impart and share their knowledge on a topic that matters to our children. Please bring your suggestion with reference to guest speakers and topics to our meetings.

The principal and deputies present their reports at our meetings where they update the P&C of the work done in the past month and also the work planned for the future.

There is also time set aside under “Any other business” where the parents are given an opportunity to raise matters concerning the activities at STHS.

Our first meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday 7 February 2017.

WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS
Our first event of the year will be the Welcome BBQ which will be held on Thursday 9 February at 5.30 pm. This will be held in the canteen covered area. This is your chance to meet the school executive, head teachers, other new parents and of course the P&C committee in an informal setting. All new students and parents are welcome so please mark this day on your diary, calendar and phones. We hope all of you will be able to attend.

P&C ON THE INTRANET/EMAIL
You can contact the P&C on email at sydtechparents@gmail.com

The school motto at Sydney Tech is “Manners Mayketh Man”. Let’s all work together in moulding the future leaders of Australia.

Arosha Ratnayake
P&C President
TRANSPORT -2017

Applying for a new School Opal Card

Step 1: You MUST apply on line at home at the following website:
transportnsw.info/school-students

This will then be forwarded to the school electronically for endorsement.

Step 2: It is important to keep track of your application. Transport will contact you via your email.

Step 3: Once approved, the School Opal Card will be sent directly to the address provided on the application.

If you require any further assistance contact the following:

General Enquiries and Assistance: 131 500
Translator and Interpreter Service: 131 450

For more information or to notify Change of Address, Lost or Stolen cards
Phone 131 500 or visit transportnsw.info/school-students

Please note that the School Opal Card is only for travel to and from School. You will not be able to use it on the weekend or for excursions. Please ensure that you have a Youth Opal card for travel after hours, on weekends and during school holidays.
**Office Hours**

The School Office is open for from 8.15am-3.15pm.

**Payments**

Payments by students should only be made before school, between Period 1 and 2, at Recess and at Lunch. Payments will not be taken after the bell has gone at the end of the day.

Payments over the phone can be made during office hours (8.15am-3.15pm).

Payments on Line can be made via our online payment system located on the STHS website. (Top right hand corner of the HOME page.)

Please do not park across any private driveways or school driveways, in our surrounding streets, when dropping your children at school or collecting them from school.

Also do not drive into any of our school carparks to stop or park.

**Attention Parents:**

**School Attendance and Leave**

If your child is absent from school, an explanation for the absence must be provided to the school within seven school days from the first day of any period of absence.

It is Departmental Policy that if your son needs to leave the school early for an appointment, then a letter must be brought to the school and it must be signed by one of the Deputy Principals before the start of the school day for leave to be granted.

If you send an sms about your son’s absence, please put his name, class and reason for absence.
School Website

ONLINE PAYMENTS

To make online payments, click on the ‘online payment’ link in the top right hand corner of the HOME page above the SEARCH box.

TECH TALK

To locate Tech Talk on the website, click on NEWS on the home page, then click on PUBLICATIONS and Tech Talk will be downloaded along with other publications relating to the school.

We also have a school Facebook page

If we are unable to use our Alert SMS Message System, important communication will be available on Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/sydneytechnicalhighschool/?fref=ts

Please be aware that it is a legal requirement for ALL visitors on school grounds during school hours to report to the School Administration Office for sign-in and sign-out. This includes parents and caregivers.
2018 NASA EXCURSION
PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

An 11 day excursion has been organised for interested students from Years 9-12 (in 2018) to Orlando, USA. This will depart Australia, 11 April 2018 and return 22 April 2018. These dates will include three school days and eight days of the Easter school holidays. The excursion will take place after all assessment tasks have been completed.

This excursion runs every three years and is designed to be in line with the Department of Education’s STEM policy (see school website under science for the previous excursion). There will be a maximum of approximately 45 boys and if too many are interested then there will be a selection process with priority given to Years 11 and 12.

The aim of this excursion is for the boys to visit the Kennedy Space Centre and the NASA Facility and experience life as an astronaut. During their visit to the Kennedy Space Centre, the boys will undergo basic astronaut training eg motion-based simulators and a full-scale Space Shuttle mission simulator as well as having the opportunity to have lunch with an astronaut. The students will also visit NASA to view their facilities including the massive launch pads and the gigantic Vehicle Assembly building. The students will also visit Disneyworld, SeaWorld, Universal Islands of Adventure and attend a basketball match.

The total cost of the excursion is approximately $5800. This price is subject to change and will be finalised when total numbers are known. This cost will include airfares, all transfers and ground travel, accommodation at the Lake Buena Vista Clarion Inn, Orlando; buffet breakfast, all dinners, all entrance fees as well as travel insurance.

Students would also need to bring money for lunches and incidentals and for souvenirs and/or extra food purchased at venues (approximately US$500).

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Debbie Noyes
HT Science
PROPOSED ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart Sydney and fly to Orlando International Airport - same day arrival. Transfer to your hotel accommodation.

Day 2: Walt Disney World resort: Epcot centre and educational tour. Evening - Basketball Match and meal voucher for the match.

Day 3: Walt Disney World resort: Disney Studios and educational tour. Dinner at a restaurant near the Hotel. Evening - Putt Putt mini golf (teachers to organise) and cheap Disney souvenir store

Day 4: Kennedy Space Center - a fascinating educational centre which allows students to explore and tour NASA areas and interact with shows and exhibits! Inspire and educate your students with ease! This day will also comprise lunch with an Astronaut - a one of a kind experience to meet a member of NASA’s Astronaut Corps!

After lunch a tour of the space centre. Late afternoon swim at Cocoa Beach and possibly dinner at a restaurant there.

Day 5: NASA Launch - experience firsthand one of the most stunning and dramatic events on Earth...a live NASA rocket launch! (TBC.) NASA Up-Close Tour - on this fully guided three hour tour students will see the awesome NASA facilities up-close, including the massive launch pads and gigantic Vehicle Assembly Building.

Day 6: Educational tour of Universal Studios - full day visit to both parks. Voucher for dinner to be supplied

Day 7: Half Day Student Astronaut Training Experience (SAXT) at the Kennedy Space Centre - an action packed educational experience including a classroom training module, motion-based simulations and full-scale Space Shuttle mission simulation. Spend the afternoon at the Astronaut Hall of fame

Day 8: SeaWorld - Orlando - educational tour of SeaWorld followed by all day experience including killer whale show. Dinner at a restaurant near the hotel. Boys can relax at the hotel or go for a supervised swim in the pools.

Day 9: Spend a full day at The Magic Kingdom! Stay late to watch the fireworks. Walt Disney World Resort is the most visited and largest recreational resort in the world. Let your students follow their dreams to a place where storybook fantasy comes to life. Seek out adventures, create magical memories and discover fun where imagination reigns.

Day 10: Check out of hotel. A factory shopping opportunity at Orlando Premium Outlets - shop till you drop with 110 stores! Evening departure from Orlando returning home to Sydney

Day 11-12: Cross the international date line and arrive home
After a long and restorative summer, it is time to return to the intensity of life @ Tech. Welcome to all returning and new students and may your 2017 be full of creative energy.

Congratulations are due to all students and teachers whose hard work and intellect yielded such wonderful 2016 HSC results in Creative Arts and Languages. Most notable among these are Kenneth Guo who topped the school in Japanese, Howard Chen in Japanese Extension, Jeremy Lay in Music 2, Joshua Ng and Frank Guo in Extension Music and Jeffrey Zhuang in Visual Arts. Excellent results in externally delivered courses were achieved by Panayioti Zoupantis in Modern Greek, Filip Gorgijovski in Macedonian Continuers and Matthew Situ who topped the State in Heritage Mandarin.

Congratulations to Year 12 Visual Art student Ibrahim Khanbhai, who was selected for Artexpress, the annual exemplar exhibition of HSC art making. His work will be exhibited at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea, from February 2017. Frank Guo should also be commended for his Encore nomination, which places him in an elite group of outstanding music performance students across the State. Most students in Music, Languages and Visual Arts achieved outstanding results in these subjects and should be justifiably proud of their sustained commitment to learning.

The STHS Performing Ensembles will commence for the year in Week 3 (Monday 6 February). All current band members should bring their instruments for normal rehearsal times beginning Monday 6 February and Mrs Ryan and Mr Gamage will coordinate the program again this year. Invoices for fees will be sent later in the term when the groups have been finalised.

The school’s Performing Ensembles Program includes:
- Beginner Band – Friday Afternoon (2:25–4:00 pm)
- Intermediate Band – Tuesday Afternoon (3:05–4:30 pm)
- Concert Band – Monday Afternoon (3:05–4:30 pm)
- Stage Band – Thursday Afternoon (3:05–4:05 pm)
- String Ensemble – Thursday Afternoon (3:05–4:30 pm)
- Choir – Monday Lunchtime
- Ukulele group – Thursday Lunchtime
YEAR 7 MUSICIANS
There are two ways new students can join the Performing Ensembles.

1. Any experienced Year 7 student interested in auditioning for a position in an ensemble, should see Mrs Ryan or Mr Gamage in Week 4 (beginning Monday 13 February) in the Creative Arts staffroom, with details of their expertise and instrument. They can then audition, with a view to starting in Week 4, after Year 7 camp.

2. An instrumental beginners program will operate in Term 2. Information about this will be issued to all Year 7 students later this term.

For more details on the Performing Ensembles program please contact Mrs Ryan at the school or via email (julie.ryan30@det.nsw.edu.au)

We look forward to a wonderful year of musical production, artistic creation and cultural exchange.

Shane Gamage
Relieving Head Teacher Creative Arts

Welcome Year 7 students and parents to Sydney Technical High School. The first week has been an exciting and action-packed week with many more thrilling activities in the coming weeks. The transition into high school can be a daunting experience but always reach out to your friends, classmates, Year 9 Peer Leaders, teachers and Year Adviser with any questions or concerns you may have. Remember you exist as a brotherhood of Techies now and that anything can be resolved in communication.

For the students and parents I have not personally met yet, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Nin Eath and I am a Social Sciences Teacher. I have had the pleasure of teaching Geography, Commerce and Business Studies at Tech for two and a half years now. I am delighted to be Year 7’s Year Adviser in their high school journey and committed to them having a fulfilling time here.

UPCOMING EVENTS
1. Welcome BBQ will be held from 5:30-7.30 pm on Thursday 9 February
2. Year 7 Swimming Pre-Test will be held on Friday 10 February
3. Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 14 February
4. Year 7 Camp will be held from Wednesday 22 February to Friday 24 February - please ensure the medical and consent form is completed as soon as possible.
5. Year 7 Parent Partnership Program will be held from 9am-10am on Thursday 23 February

Reminder: Please drop-off and pick-up students at Ethel Street entrance. Do not enter or use any of the carparks to drop-off or pick-up students and do not park across the driveways.

Nin Eath
Year 7 Adviser
I would like to welcome back all Year 8 students at Sydney Tech. It has been a well deserved holiday break for the boys and their families after a big year of change and transition. Many returned back and walked through the school corridors taller and tanned. However, more importantly, students are looking refreshed and ready to embrace the new learning challenges of 2017!

2017 will bring new opportunities for Year 8 to explore and reach new heights in the realms of academia, sport and personal growth. I am excited about the direction in which each student will be propelled. As they complete their final year of Stage 4 studies, students will be asked to decide upon elective classes for Year 9 and 10. To do this, students need to invest their best effort in all subjects this year to truly determine where their strong points and interests exist. To assist students in realising this, I am encouraging students to develop stronger organisational skills through implementing the daily use of their school diaries. This will allow students to minimise stress and better manage their time and workload to achieve at their personal best. I am sure parents will support us in this regard and encourage open conversations about it at home.

Some of the 2017 events which may be excellent conversations around the dinner table include: High Resolves, subject specific incursions/excursions such as the History’s Medieval day, issues to be explored at wellbeing assemblies such as cybersafety, fitness, sleep and notetaking. Year 8 will also be given the opportunity to give back to the Tech community in Term 4 as they undergo peer support training. The program aims to provide valuable insights into leadership as well as develop their leadership skills. Students will then go through a selection process to become the peer support leader for incoming future techies.

I look forward to reporting student progress and achievements in the coming year.

Wendy Mac
Year 8 Adviser
Welcome to all Year 11 students, especially to all those who are new to STHS. It can be daunting attending a new school and I hope the friendliness of your peers and teachers will help you to settle in. Ms Haitidis is available in the English staffroom to help new students, however you can also speak to me as the Relieving Year Advisor for Term 1, Head Teacher Wellbeing, Mr Stokes, the school counsellor, Mr Dahl, or any of your teachers if you would like to get some extra support.

The Preliminary Year is a sprint from start to finish. The first assessment week is in Week 2 of Term 2. Students need to get organised with a study schedule including regular time for revision as well as time for completing homework and assessments. You need to set up folders for each subject and have a system for organising your sheets so that you do not waste time trying to find lost handouts. See your teachers for help if you need and if you notice yourself struggling with lack of motivation, let your Year Adviser, Mr Grinham, Mr Stokes, the school counsellor, your parents and any of your teachers know as soon as possible so that you can get help.

The driver education program, U-Turn-the-Wheel and then Year 11 Camp will follow the Year 11 exams, also in Week 2 of Term 2. Students will receive information in the next few weeks about the Year 11 Camp.

Ellen Campbell
Relieving Year 11 Adviser

While Shane Gamage is Acting Head Teacher of Creative Arts and Languages for the next four weeks, I will be filling in as Year Adviser. If you have any questions or concerns about your son then please contact me via the school phone number or by email julie.ryan30@det.nsw.edu.au

Best wishes to all the boys for a successful 2017 as they undertake their studies including their chosen electives.

Enjoy 2017 at Tech.

Julie Ryan
Relieving Year 9 Adviser
**LIBRARY RESTRUCTURE**

The library has undertaken the third stage of its refurbishment thanks to the generosity of parents contributing to the tax-deductible library fund. In 2016 and over the holidays, the Senior Study Centre was transformed with new carpet and new furniture providing students with a fresh, contemporary environment and a variety of seating arrangements to suit their needs. The effect of the refurbishment has created a calmer atmosphere in the area which is more conducive to studying than with the previous arrangement. The focus for the next stage of the library restructure is on purchasing Compactus units to re-organise the library office, and also on updating the technology for the Senior Study area.

**YEAR 7 LIBRARY ORIENTATION:**

All Year 7 students have completed a library orientation during which they learnt how to download the My Library app onto their mobile devices. Students also learnt how they can personalise My Library by adding their interests so that they will receive messages when new books come into the library which they might like. Students learnt how to renew and reserve books, and how they can use Federated Search to find Click View quality educational videos. Each class also had a tour of the library showing them the location of fiction, non-fiction, and special collections. A highlight of the tour for each class was sitting in the Senior Study area imagining themselves 5 or 6 years into the future where they would be sitting, wearing crisp white shirts and substantially taller studying for their HSC. Procedures for borrowing chess sets, printing assignments and requesting new books and board games, as well as how to borrow e-books were also covered in the orientation.

**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE, YEARS 7-9**

Students in Years 7-9 can register for the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) on March 6, 2017. Students need to take the initiative and enter their own books online through the PRC website, using their DEC Student Portal user name and password to log on at https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html. Students must enter at least 15 PRC books and up to 5 personal choice books which they have read. The first rule of the challenge states: You must complete your online Student Reading Record by 20 August 2017 (11:59 pm) to complete the Challenge. Students who need help to enter their books online need to see Ms Campbell in the library.

**LIBRARY TEAM:**

Students from Years 7-12 are welcome to join the library team, friends of the library who volunteer to assist with library duties. Membership of the team counts towards the Wykeham Award, however the most important attribute of students who join the team is a love of books. Students who join the team really need to value books and libraries. Any students who wish to join need to see Ms Campbell.
BOOK CLUB
Avid readers are welcome to join the book club which will meet weekly to form a community of like-minded boys. The book club will make recommendations for books for the library to purchase and read and discuss their books. It is fun to be part of a reading community as reading is undertaken as a solitary activity. Students who wish to join need to see Ms Campbell in the library.

BOARD GAMES
Finally, the library has a range of complex board games for gifted and talented students, including Risk and Games of Catan which students are welcome to borrow. The range of games available is being expanded based on student recommendations and requests. Please fill out a Board Game request form and hand it to Ms Campbell with your recommendations.

Ellen Campbell
Teacher Librarian
Year 12 Post HSC Get Together
year 7 orientation day 6.12.16
year 7 - day 1 - 30.1.17
BUILDING FUND

Tech High, established in 1911, was originally located in a building in Mary Ann Street, Ultimo, and known as Ultimo Central Technical School. The Official Opening of the new school buildings on McConnachies Paddock, Forest Road, was performed on 2 August 1958. Our school buildings are always in need of upgrading and renovation. The priority areas for our Building Fund in 2016 are to upgrade toilets. Currently our bathrooms do not meet environmental standards, waste water and electricity. Your contribution to the fund will enhance student and staff well-being and contribute to an improved school environment. There are various amounts you can donate or you can suggest your own amount. All donations over $2 are tax deductible.

LIBRARY FUND

The school has established a school Library fund. This fund is designed to enhance student learning and improve access to up to date resources from a range of different media. Our school Library is in constant use by students and teachers for research, private study and building general knowledge.

Currently, our school library is undergoing refurbishment so that both the environment and literature available are up to date and suitable for 21st century learning.

Your contribution to the fund will enhance our ability to provide inspiring and essential reading for our students. All donations over $2 are tax deductible.

Yes I would like to contribute to the Sydney Technical High School

☐ Building Fund  ☐ Library Fund

 $130.00
 ☐ $250.00
 ☐ $500.00
 ☐ $750.00
 ☐ ................ (write amount you wish to donate)

I wish to pay by
☐ Cheque (enclosed)  ☐ Parent Online Payment (POP)

OR debit my credit card  ☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard

Card No: [Redacted]

Security Code: [Redacted]

Expiry Date: [Redacted]

Cardholder’s Name: ........................................................................................................... (please print)

Signature .......................................................  Student’s Name: ..........................................

Payments can also be paid by telephone on (02) 9587 5899.

All donations over $2 are tax deductible.
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