CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OUTSTANDING TECHIES

Tom Pham, Jordan Ka Truong and Oishik Sarkar were medalists in the Australian Science Olympiad. Oishik and Jordan will be attending summer school at the Australian National University Science Olympiads with other highly gifted students. Jordan was awarded an ICAS medal at the University Of New South Wales in Science at a recent ceremony attended by myself and his parents.

Hilton Nguyen won a prize in the Australian Mathematics Competition, and will be attending the Australian National University Australian Mathematics Trust summer school in Canberra.

In recent news the school was delighted to hear that Ebrahim Khanbhai had his art work ‘Spice of Life’ selected for the Art Express exhibition at two galleries: Hazlehurst and The Tamworth Regional Gallery. Congratulations to him, and thanks to his teacher, Ms Tina Blake.

These are fine achievements, and represent how much value is placed on offering students at the school a broad curriculum which suits their interests and talents.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Tom Pham, Jordan Ka Truong and Oishik Sarkar

Ebrahim Khanbhai
Congratulations also to the following boys who received Platinum Awards in the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge - William Zameny, and Vincent Yuan from Year 8, and Ilyas Bentaalla, Raymond Do, Nipun Kar, Chi Kelly Lachlan Lo and Kevin Zhang from Year 7.

Premier’s Reading Challenge Platinum Award Recipients.

Contragulations also to Maazin Jaame on his recent Duke of Edinburgh award.

WHITE RIBBON DAY
Sydney Technical High School celebrated White Ribbon today with a very special assembly organised by our Year 10 and 11 SRC leaders under the guidance of Mr Nick Stokes, Wellbeing Head Teacher. Congratulations to our speakers, Elvis Cheng and Maazin Jaame who spoke eloquently and with passion about this Year’s White Ribbon theme, ‘Breaking the Silence’, and how our young men at Tech can prevent violence against women. You can find their speeches on Pages 16 and 17. Year 10 SRC produced a dramatic video with the theme ‘drawing the line’ from this Year’s White Ribbon campaign, which can be found via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jnez-fLsrv4&feature=youtu.be. Richard Zhou impressed us all with his playing of Schubert’s Impromptu Opus 90, No3. We were delighted to welcome our guest speaker, White Ribbon Ambassador Shen Megalaa, who is currently teaching English at Belmore Boys High School, and told students about his pride in the strong women who have influenced who he is today. School Captain, Pakajan Narendiran, led Tech in taking the White Ribbon Oath.

My congratulations and thanks to our student leaders of this very important assembly, with the most important message: that violence against women is never acceptable.

SPORTS ASSEMBLY
Congratulations to our many talented sportsmen who represent the school with such pride, and were recognised at our recent sports assembly. Once again we were the St George Zone winter and summer sport champions as well as taking out the Athletics, swimming and Cross country carnivals. Congratulations: our record in our zone remains unbroken, since my arrival at the school in 2007! It is a privilege to be part of a school which values individual performance but is so skilled at teamwork. St George Zone Blues were awarded to Chris Glitsos for swimming; and Jeremy Lay and Chia Chen Po for Athletics, a very fine achievement. Russell Koh and Rowan Tan have set their stage for future blues breaking zone carnival records in swimming and athletics respectively.

MARKET DAY
Despite the heat (34 degrees) students turned out in their hundreds to enjoy Year 9’s commerce ‘Market Day’ on Friday 2 December. The BBQ was a great success, as were throwing water bombs at very cooperative teachers. Sadly, the ice creams ended up melting pretty quickly, but the day is for a great cause, the Stewart House Charity which is supported by the Department of Education. More news about who won the most successful stall will be in later Tech Talks.

SUMMER ENSEMBLES
On Monday Night, the summer ensembles held their Christmas celebration with a diverse program which included the Sydney Tech Orchestra, initiated and led by year 12 student Nayeem Halim, who is sadly leaving the school. We will miss his wonderful repertoire, and his polished performances, and hope that like many other ex- music students he will return to perform at the school. Thanks to the bands, the choir, and the special interest groups, and stunning individual performances and congratulations to
the hard work of teachers in the music faculty and their tutors: Mrs Ryan, Mr Gamage and Miss Riley, and to staff who helped on the night.

RETIREMENTS

Mrs Julie Kelso is retiring from the mathematics faculty at the end of the term, and has taught at the school since 1990 from Kogarah High School. Mrs Kelso is a gifted teacher, seeing many students through their HSC with great results. She is also a long term mentor to aspiring mathematics teachers who she has guided through their practicums as the practicum coordinator for University students for many years. Julie was a great supporter of staff wellbeing and led the introduction of morning teas and other social events. Julie has great skills in craft works, and has supplied many babies in the school with beautiful quilts.

Mrs Joanne Wright is retiring from her position as head teacher Visual Arts and LOTE, a position she has held since 2002. She is very passionate about her subject, and was responsible for many students gaining coveted places in the HSC Art Express Exhibition. A strong advocate for the Performing Ensembles and Music, and for Languages Other Than English, Mrs Wright was a talented administrator and organiser, drawing together the staff from disparate disciplines under her care. Mrs Wright also contributed significantly to the leadership of whole school directions and programs, and was an educator of the highest calibre. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

VOLUNTEERS LUNCH

A big thank you to our parents and community who attended our volunteers lunch last week. We had parents who work in the canteen, the uniform shop, are on merit selection panels, and photograph the life of the school amongst many activities that support our students. It was good to also see representatives of the Old Boys network. It is with sadness that I say farewell to three year parents who have had an exceptional relationship with the school, and I thanks them for their generosity in giving their time our community: Mrs Angela Kim; Mrs Antonia Hayler and Mrs Julia Yee-Dela Torre.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe festive season and holiday.

Jacqueline Lyons
Principal

Hilton Nguyen at AMC Medal Ceremony

Jordan Ka Truong receiving his medal at UNSW
**SUBJECT SELECTION - YEAR 12 - HSC PREPARATION**

Students are to attend school until the final day of term four, Friday 16 December 2016, with all classes being taught meaningful lessons. Year 11 students have already commenced HSC courses and assessment tasks, and attendance at all lessons is vital for their progress through to the HSC exams in 2016. Spot roll checks will identify fractional truants and parents will be informed. Please ensure that your son continues to attend school prepared to engage in lessons and that he wears correct school uniform each day.

**STUDENT DRIVERS**

Students who are eligible to drive to school must complete a permission form to do so. There are specific requirements and responsibilities for drivers. There are also permission forms for passengers. Please ask your son to see Mrs Wilson to collect these forms.

**END OF YEAR REPORTS**

Students in Years 7-10 will receive their reports during Weeks 9 and 10. A text message will be sent to notify parents when they have been distributed. Year 11 reports were distributed earlier this term.

**HSC ASSESSMENT WEEK**

The first assessment week for Year 11, as part of their HSC courses, is in Weeks 9 and 10 (5-13 December). All students have been issued with a booklet, which outlines the rules and requirements of the HSC assessments. These rules are in line with BOSTES (Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards NSW) requirements for the award of the Higher School Certificate. All students and their parents are urged to read this booklet so that they are aware of what to do in the event of illness or misadventure at the time of a task or absence prior to the assessment week. The booklet is also available on the school intranet in Year Files.

**BYOD CHANGES FOR 2107**

Thank you to the many staff, students and parents for your input into the BYOD Evaluation we conducted earlier this year. Many important findings came from this process including the following recommendations that the BYOD Committee recently took to the Executive and teaching staff:

1. The iPad will remain as the suggested device for the continuation of BYOD at Tech.
2. Strong messages were communicated regarding BYOD being introduced to Year 8 or 9 instead of Year 7 – more investigation into this will take place in 2017.
3. No non-educational use of devices during recess or lunch breaks on any school day.
4. Parent workshops to run in 2017 to better equip our community with the understanding of security, parent and control settings.
5. Recommendations to parents that no non-educational apps be installed on the devices.
These changes will be in effect from the beginning of 2017. Current students will be informed of the changes and incoming students will be informed of these too at their respective orientation days.

**RETURN TO SCHOOL 2017**

Years 11 and 12 will commence school on Monday 30 January 2017 at 8.45 am and Years 8, 9 and 10 on Tuesday 31 January 2016 at 8.45 am. The incoming Year 7 will begin on Monday 30 January 2017 at 9.30 am. The first day for each year group will begin with a whole school assembly in the auditorium.

We would like to wish students and their families a happy and safe holiday.

Kirk Grinham                                      Diane Wilson  
Deputy Principal                                 Deputy Principal

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**Intranet Access**

The school’s file servers are now managed centrally by the Department of Education.

One of the unfortunate consequences of this is that the Department does not allow parental login to access the school resources.

We are currently working on some systems that will make the calendar and course information available to parents via a combination of secure login and public visibility. In the meantime we ask for your patience. If you need to access the Intranet to see the calendar or your son’s absences simply use his login details and you will have full access to all a student can see.

Thank you for your support in this matter

Martin Riley  
Head Teacher Computing Studies
HIGH RESOLVES

In Term 4, all students in Years 7 and 8 participated in the last of three workshops from the High Resolves program in the areas of Digital Citizenship and Personal Impact. Both workshops contained a series of highly immersive, simulation-based activities to make the learning experience more enjoyable and engaging for our Year 7 and 8 students.

The Digital Citizens workshop provide our Year 7 boys with an insight into how the internet and social media can be used to awaken and mobilise public opinion towards positive change. In small groups, under the guidance of a Year 10 peer leader, students examined a series of case studies using social media and learnt how to respond to divisive or hateful messages with a stronger, positive, collective response instead. At the conclusion of the Digital Citizenship workshop, students were given an opportunity to adopt and adhere to a personal code of conduct when using the internet and social media to help make them better digital citizens.

The Year 8 Personal Impact workshop also contained a series of case studies with one example being centred on the environment. As a global citizen we can either be part of the problem and continue to litter destroying our environment, do nothing by not littering with minimal change or make an impact by doing something to help reduce pollution for example recycling etc. The key messages of making a personal impact as a global citizen could also be seen by the students to be transferable into other areas of their life.

PEER SUPPORT

On 7 and 8 November all of Year 8 students undertook the two-day training course in Peer Support learning. Sydney Tech has been a long term affiliate member of the Peer Support Foundation of Australia and each year this program is offered to the entire grade so that they can learn important skills in the areas of leadership, resilience, communication, problem solving and team work. The interest in becoming a peer leader appears to be growing each year so the expectations and standards are set very high for those who are selected. Commiseration’s to those boys who applied and missed out this year – this does not mean that we consider you an unsuitable leader and strongly encourage you to seek other leadership opportunities within the school. In fact, some of these boys have already been offered High Resolves leadership roles in 2017. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Faulder, our Junior Transition Coordinator for her role in organising the students, staff and resources for the two day Peer Support Training this year which is a huge job to coordinate and oversee.

Peer Leaders at Tech play an important role in the transition of incoming Year 7 students. Their first official duties will begin on Tuesday 6 December at Orientation Day, where our new Peer leaders will meet their small group of Year 6 students and run a series of peer led activities after the welcome assembly. Peer leaders will also make an effort to introduced the Year 6 boys to other incoming students and provide them with a tour of the school in order to help maximise their transition experience into High School in 2017. Peer Support will continue until the
end of Term 2 in 2017 and will be run during the wellbeing assembly time slot so that the students will not miss out on any classes. Peer Leaders work in pairs with five Year 7 students and assist them settling into life at Tech. Across their time together, they will look to build positive relationships with other students and their school. They will cover a range of topics such as making friends, conflict resolution, successful communication, getting organised, preparing for camp as well as regular debriefing sessions where general questions about high school life can be asked.

I would like to thank all of Year 8 for their participation and enthusiasm in the two-day peer support training and congratulate the 60 successful leaders who were chosen. These boys now have an important role ahead of them. Thank you also to our ten teacher trainers this year who deserves a special mention as well – Robert Devlin, Angela Pettas, Antoinette Johnston, Nin Eath, Joanne Bilton, Andrea Gale, Elizabeth Greaves, Jeff DeRooy, Yioita Zois, Pamela Stergiou and Nathan Brown. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the rest of the staff for being so accommodating around rooming rearrangements as well as taking lessons and other duties for our teacher trainers.

**WHITE RIBBON DAY**

Tech has been a long time vocal supporter for the White Ribbon Day Foundation for many years now educating young men of Sydney Tech into helping put an end to violence against women. The White Ribbon Day Event this year was coordinated and run by the SRC and Prefects which started off with some fundraising through the sale of white ribbons, wrist bands and a mufti day. All proceeds were then forwarded on to White Ribbon Day Australia to help support them in their works in ending violence against women.

A special assembly was also held on Friday 18th November with the theme for this year’s event called “Breaking The Cycle”. The purpose behind this particular catch phrase was to provide our boys with practical tips and advice in how they can help break the cycle of domestic violence towards women through their everyday actions and treatment of the women in their lives. We were very fortunate to also have a special guest speaker, Mr Shen Megalaa from Belmore Boys High School come and speak to the boys about his journey into becoming a White Ribbon Day Ambassador. Other outstanding contributions were from Elvis Chung and Maazin Jaame who both delivered great speeches at the assembly and from our senior prefects, Lawrance Huang, Adam Sadek and Pakajan Narendiran with their help in organising and coordinating events and people behind the scenes. Finally, I would like to thank Richard Zhou in Year 10 for his musical performance and the Year 10 SRC for creating and compiling a short internal video to show during the assembly. The day concluded with a friendly game of soccer between staff and student on the top oval with the teachers winning 4–3.

**WELLBEING CONFERENCE**

On Thursday 25 November, Sydney Tech hosted the second Selective Wellbeing Head Teachers Network Conference. This newly formed group is made up of Wellbeing Head teachers from Selective High Schools from around Sydney with representation from North Sydney Boys, North Sydney Girls, Sydney Boys, Sydney Girls, Manly Selective, Penrith Selective, Fort Street, James Ruse, Caringbah High and Sydney Tech. At our meeting we heard from Terrence Humphreys from Twenty Ten about how to best support students and their families of diverse genders and sexualities in schools and Lisa Maltman from the Sleep Connection. Lisa works closely with the Woolcock Institute and comes out to present to teachers, parents and students about the importance of sleep health in schools. Lisa’s presentation focused on why sleep is important, the amount of recommended sleep required for children and teenagers, how to recognise signs of sleep deprivation, effects of insufficient sleep, sleep thieves – causes of insufficient sleep and common sleep problems. Lisa also has a follow up practical session which she runs with the students which require them to fill out a sleep diary for two weeks so students can compare their own individual sleeping habits against recommended guidelines. As part of the Wellbeing Assembly program in 2017 we have invited Lisa back next year to come and present to students in Year 8 and 11.

**Nick Stokes**  
Wellbeing Head Teacher
Hi All

We are well into the last term of the year and most of you must be getting ready for the festive season.

LAST MEETING

Our last meeting was held on Tuesday, 1 November 2016. A big thank you to all the parents who attended.

The guest speaker for the evening was our English Head Teacher, Debbie Demetriadis. Debbie has been head of the English Faculty for more than a decade and has been in the forefront of the advances in English made at Sydney Tech.

Debbie stressed that reading, reading and reading was the formula for success in English. She also stated that reading to write is the approach to be taken to improve essay writing skills. Debbie read an essay written by a Year 11 student. She explained that although complicated words were not used this was a well written piece which would get top marks. I think all the parents attending agreed that it was a very well written piece.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM was held following Debbie's presentation. All positions were declared vacant and a new committee consisting of a mix of new and old hands were elected to carry out the affairs of the P&C in 2017. The committee is below.

President – Arosha Ratnayake
Vice Presidents – Warren Mak and Rajesh Thihari
Secretary – Emily Bae
Assistant Secretary – Marta Gonzalez-Valdes
Treasurer – Epi Manu
Assistant Treasurer – Alex Troyak
Committee – Mathew Jenkins and Dennis Cordato

A funding request for display cabinets for the Science Faculty was also approved at the monthly meeting held afterwards.

UPGRADE OF TOILET FACILITIES AND POWER BOARDS.

These issues are still at hand due to government departmental red tape although the funding has been approved/sourced for both projects. We are still hoping that these can be undertaken during the school holidays in December.

GONSKI FUNDING

As the P&C, we will keep making representations to our elected representative at every opportunity as we believe that this is something that will benefit all our children attending Public Schools. We appeal to all of you to express your concerns to all your elected representatives whenever possible as this will have an effect on the quality of education received by our children in the public school system.
NEXT MEETING
Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6 December at 7.00 pm in the Common room. This will be our last meeting of the year and we will have our Christmas celebrations on this day. Please join us in sharing the Christmas cheer.

YEAR 7 ORIENTATION
The Year 7 orientation day will be held on Tuesday, 6 December 2016 and members of the P&C will be attending to welcome the new boys and parents.

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON
We thank the principal Jacquelyn Lyons and the staff for arranging a luncheon for the volunteers who helped the school in various areas including the running of the canteen, running the uniform pool and also the P&C. This was well attended and all enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship.

CONTACTING THE P&C
The email for contacting the P&C is sydtechparents@gmail.com Please send your suggestions, queries etc. to this email. The agenda and the minutes of previous meetings can also accessed by logging on to the Moodle and visiting the P&C page.

The new website is back up and running and soon we will have the facility to upload the agenda for upcoming meetings on the P&C sub tab under the “About STHS” tab.

Please ensure that all of you check out the official STHC face book page. We are looking for more likes. Please be aware that there are several unofficial face book sites claiming to be the STHC site. The official site can be identified by the school emblem as the profile picture and the foundation stone as the background.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting.

Arosha Ratnayake
P&C President
NEWS AROUND SCHOOL

Year 10 Maths Day

[Images of students in a classroom setting]
Sports Awards Assembly
One in three Australian women have been, or are victims of sexual or physical assault. An average of one woman dies every week in Australia from domestic violence. Forty-two percent of homicide incidents in NSW are domestically related (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2013). These disturbing statistics of domestic violence in Australia exceed the world’s average. At an all-boys school, it’s easy to get sucked into the culture of ‘hyper-masculinity’. Perhaps it’s the sexist schoolyard jokes or culture of being an “alpha-male”. The beliefs and values that are past down from generation to generation as to what it takes to “be a man” also plays an important role here too. Young men work up to build this façade to satisfy the expectations of those around them. This, creates a culture where hyper-masculinity is encouraged and where women are oppressed and discouraged from being this strong and competent character. If this doesn’t seem bad, consider the fact that you had a 50% chance of being born a female. The fact that you weren’t does not give you any special privileges.

Here at Tech, as an all-boys school, we know it’s wrong to hit a woman, but many of us fail to understand the true consequences that sexism and hyper-masculinity have on our lives, especially because largely, they don’t affect us. For some of us, it isn’t clear how these “small” issues contribute to a broader problem where masculinity is associated with strength and being a man, and anything “non-masculine” is associated with being weak and helpless- a “non-man”, a woman. That’s the start of a long journey that essentially ends with women being excluded from accessing the same opportunities as men. To bring to light and spread awareness, here at Tech, the SRC annually hold a White Ribbon Day event to raise awareness and money for The White Ribbon Organisation. The White Ribbon Organisation is a non-profit organisation aiming to stop violence against women. It does so by focusing its attention at youth, like us here at tech, and operates under the slogan “the standard you walk past is the standard you accept”.

Essentially their message is that even if you’re not committing domestic violence, there’s more that you can do. We host this event with pride and passion here at Tech. In the lead up to the special White Ribbon Day assembly, SRC members across all grades will sell white ribbons and wristbands to raise money for the organisation, which aims to eradicate domestic violence in Australia and aid victims of domestic violence. On the day of the actual assembly, we invite an ambassador from the White Ribbon Organisation to give a speech to all students on the importance of this organisation, informing u on how we can make a difference to help reduce domestic violence in our community. This year, we will hear from our guest presenter, Mr Shen Megalaa from Belmore High School who will give a speech talking about his reasons for being an ambassador for the White Ribbon Organisation and try to inspire the young men of Tech to join him in standing up against domestic violence by taking an oath; “To Stand Up, Speak Out and Act To Prevent Men’s Violence Against Women”. In addition to this, a video for White Ribbon Day that has been produced by the yr10’s SRC will be also be shown. This year’s theme for the White Ribbon Day assembly is ‘Breaking the Cycle’. It’s about our responsibility to take action, stand up against domestic violence against women and to break this ongoing cycle.

White ribbon day is about realising the fact that you, being a man, does not mean that you can treat a woman differently. It’s about ending the encouragement of hyper-masculinity, bringing sexual equality to our society, and ending domestic violence. As young men at Tech, it is our responsibility to cease and reverse the growing trend of physical and sexual assault against women.

Minsu Jung and Ahmed Hijazi
Year 9
I swear never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.
This is my oath.
Safety. It’s a luxury too many of us take for granted. Whether it be in the workplace, on the streets or at home. The right to feel safe is one which too many women are denied especially in what should be the safest environment, our homes. White Ribbon is the world’s largest movement aimed to end men’s violence against women, promoting social change for safer and respectful relationships. White Ribbon Day is a chance to reflect not just on where we need to go but how far we have come. The world is not perfect, one in four women have experienced at least one incident of violence in a relationship however the taboo of not speaking out, and not seeking help is slowly being eroded.

For many years I have heard much of the same, the numbers of women subjected to violence every year, the number of deaths, the number of sexual assaults. But let’s not focus on the numbers today. Change happens with us. Morally it should be a no brainer, violence against and any form of abusing women is inexcusable. Numbers which shock shouldn’t be the factor to spur change. It’s more that, it’s about education changing social expectations to establish the right individual values and ensure violence against women just doesn’t exist because it’s just wrong. White Ribbon Day and the invaluable work they do is a step toward the light. Debunking previously accepted norms of what’s acceptable at home, what a respectful relationship entails and how to intervene and seek help are aspects which White Ribbon has promoted to a new generation of men.

Our message today is about breaking the cycle. In particular the social cycle of domestic violence. Domestic violence is not a phenomenon which appeared out of thin air, it’s existence today is a reflection of a social environment where violence against women was once tolerated and the accepted norm. When tackling problems there are three types of people, those who are part of the problem, those who stand by or those who actually do something about it. Techies we’ve never been ones to stand on the sidelines and I hope we will never be the ones who perpetrate the problem. We need to be those who stand up and speak out on this pressing issue. In the end it’s about breaking the cycle, changing ethical attitudes on what we perceive what’s right and what’s wrong.

So what can we do? Well, it’s about recognising the line, the line where banter becomes harassment, the line where a simple dispute becomes abuse and standing up to do something about it. So guys today when you take the oath like you have done so every year or do so for the first time. Remember it’s not a hollow statement. Those words mean you are part of something bigger, part of a group of men who are taking a stand to break the cycle of domestic violence. Being a part of something which saves lives.

Domestic violence has for too long been hidden behind the closed of doors of the home. Change happens with us. Techies, as the next generation never have we been more informed more educated in what’s right or wrong in regards to the abuse of women. White Ribbon day events like this one have gone a long way in instilling a culture where domestic violence against women is just not on.

Guys the buck stops with us.

Elvis Cheng
Year 11
Sydney Tech’s 2016 message in support of White Ribbon Day is breaking the cycle – how we as young men can actively prevent domestic violence against women by breaking the social cycle of domestic violence. Although domestic violence is not always a result of a social cycle, more often than not, it is. When on average there is one woman a week who is killed by her partner as a result of domestic violence in Australia alone, it is our duty and our obligation as men to put an end to it.

The first step in solving any problem is to identify the issue, and domestic violence is no different. Domestic violence mainly occurs due to a clear lack of respect in a relationship, where one individual feels as if they are superior or holds more power, often leading to an abuse of this power. In order to combat this, we urge you to treat the women in your lives, your mother, your sisters and your partners with the utmost respect, letting them know that you support them as well encouraging men in your lives to also treat women with respect. Although this may not seem like a major step, it is an essential step in breaking the cycle of domestic violence against women. If we as men are taught to always respect the women in our lives, it leads to healthy relationships in the future, which will pre-emptively reduce the number of domestic violence incidents within Australia.

Another vital step in solving the problem is being vocal about it and taking action against domestic violence towards women. Many of us guys when faced with the idea of domestic violence, which can be in the form of misogynistic comments or see it happening are not sure what the right thing to do is. One of the easiest things to do when confronting the issue of domestic violence is to raise awareness. To remove the stigma, to break the silence and to encourage women facing domestic violence to speak up. This means that in a school situation or even online when something is said with intent of misogyny, call it out, tell the person who said it that it isn’t okay. We learn most of our behaviour from mainly the men in our lives, our fathers and our peers, and one of the most powerful tools we have to break the cycle is our ability to speak up about behaviour that is disrespectful towards women. And for when you witness/hear about an incidence of domestic violence here are things that we can do to diffuse the situation and stop it before it gets worse:

1. Call the police immediately
2. Tell the perpetrator clearly that their actions are not okay
3. Consult the victim in order to make them feel safe and reassure them that it will be okay
4. Call for help around you
5. Safely attempt to intervene in order to create a distraction or calm down the perpetrator

Also remember that it isn’t about being a vigilante, be smart and help where you can.

There is no justifiable reason to physically assault a woman. It is not okay to hit her if she makes you angry, it is not okay to hit her if she makes a mistake and it not okay to hit her even if she cheats on you. It is simply not okay. Techies when you take the oath later on this assembly, don’t take it light of heart. By taking this oath, you are voicing your commitment to breaking the cycle of domestic violence, to respect the women around you, to teach your future sons that it’s never okay to assault a woman, to raise awareness and to intervene when possible. This speech isn’t about demonising you guys, telling you that someday you will become part of the problem simply because you are a guy, this speech is a call for the long awaited end to domestic violence, the breaking of the cycle. Remember boys, change starts with you.

Maazin Jaame
Year 11
You are invited to view the Year 9 and Year 10 Visual Arts Painting Exhibition
C Block Foyer and Room 35
1pm Thursday 8 December until 3pm Friday 9 December
and after school 3pm-5pm Thursday 8 December
Market Day
NOTICES

All OPAL Card enquiries should be referred to Transport NSW - School Student Transport Scheme. If you have lost your card, moved house or you need to change your transport details/provider, please use this helpful link:


As much as we would like to help, we are not able to deal with these enquiries at school. Please remember to inform the office staff when you change your address.

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.
Sydney Tech has a new website.

**ONLINE PAYMENTS:**
To make online payments just click on the ‘online payment’ link in the top right hand corner of the HOME page above the SEARCH box.

Payments are quick, easy and convenient, with the added bonus of no processing fee.

**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 there 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
STHS SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

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

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

The next date for the clothing pool this year will be on Tuesday 8 November 2016.

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

Message from the School Administration Office

Just a reminder that the School Office is open for payments and enquiries during school hours – 8.15am – 3.05pm.

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

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.

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.
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.**

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.

LINKING TECH WITH OLD BOYS IN PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS
http://www.linkedin.com/company/sydney-technical-high-school
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: ___________________________ Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Security Code: ________________

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.
SCHOOLWEAR OFFER

$50 OFF
NORMAL PRICE

SCHOOL BLAZERS

NOTE:
OFFER VALID FOR 4 WEEKS!
12TH JANUARY TO 12TH FEBRUARY

LOWES

Exclusive stockists of premium quality Beare & Ley Schoolwear

A $50 non-refundable deposit is required with order if size not available at time of purchase.

PS: EXTRA 5% DISCOUNT FOR EZY-WAY CUSTOMERS
Become your own music producer with Activate Music Academy’s Online Holiday Program! We’ll workshop your songs, make new friends in the community forum, and get creative to win awesome prizes. Complete beginner? Been making beats for a while? We’re going to have a great time making music together! Register and find out more at:

https://activatemusic.academy/online-holiday-program/
SCHOOL CALENDAR

DECEMBER

5-9    Year 7 Swimming Program
6      P&C Meeting, 7.30pm in the Common Room
6      Year 7 (2017) Orientation Day
6      Uniform Shop - 10.30 till noon in Vera’s Cottage
7      Year 8-11 (2017) Orientation Day
13     Environment Team Green Day
15     HSC Results Distributed
16     Year 12 Morning Tea - 10.30am

JANUARY 2017

27     Staff return to school
30     Years 7, 11 and 12 return to school
31     Years 8, 9 and 10 return to school

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.