

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 | June 2020 | Term 2



MITCHAM GIRLS
HIGH SCHOOL

DIARY DATES

July

Monday 20 – Friday 24

Year 12 Exams

Thursday 23

Year 10 Immunisations

August

Monday 3

Governing Council 6:00pm

Monday 10 – Friday 14

Wellbeing Week

Thursday 20

Casual Day

Friday 28

Sports Day

September

Wednesday 2

Course Counselling 2:45 – 8:00pm

Thursday 3

Course Counselling 9:00am – 3:00pm

Friday 4

School Closure (Show Day)

Monday 7

Pupil Free Day

Sunday 13

Dance Showcase,
Scott Theatre, 7:00pm

Friday 18

Year 12 Formal (Hilton Adelaide)
7:00pm

Dear Mitcham Families,

This has been an extraordinary term. Over last break, the staff spent a significant amount of time preparing to deliver online learning. However, as you know, while we spent the first few weeks teaching a blended mode we quickly got back to normal face to face teaching and learning. I would really like to thank both staff and parents for being very patient and working as a whole school community to ensure that our students were affected as little as possible.

All of our Governing Council and sub-committee meetings have been held via Zoom and this has enabled everyone involved to make excellent contributions to school improvement whilst remaining in the comfort of their own homes.

As from Monday 29 June, providing we follow government health advice and adhere to physical distancing, we are able to resume school assemblies, sports competitions, sports days, carnivals, school formals and professional learning activities. However, it is really important that staff and students stay at home if they are unwell. We will encourage non-physical greetings and parents must continue to socially distance at school pick up and drop off.

I am delighted that our Year 12 girls will once again be able to celebrate the end of their final year at Mitcham, as the recent news has allowed us to reschedule the annual Formal. Both girls and teachers are super excited by this news. This will be held on Friday 18 September at the Hilton Adelaide.

As many of you will have noticed, our building works are well under way. The new dance studio is in operation and the old studio was demolished during Week 8 in preparation for ground works to begin. Please visit the school's Facebook page to view the video. This is an exciting phase for the school and will add to the already excellent facilities.

I wish you all a restful break and look forward to continuing to work together in Semester 2.

Kindest regards,

Linda Baird
Principal



Kyre Avenue, Kingswood, South Australia 5062
Phone: +61 8 8272 8233 Fax: +61 8 8373 3013
Email: dl.0903.info@schools.sa.edu.au

www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



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What has the SRC been doing in 2020?

Although 2020 has come with some unexpected circumstances, such as having SRC meetings on Teams for a number of weeks as well as the Executive elections, the SRC has accomplished many exciting events and initiatives.

SRC Roles and Responsibilities

Each Year 12 representative created a one-minute-long video explaining why they should be elected as a Co-President and were voted on by the SRC. Caitlin Selge and Zuha Faisal were elected as Co-Presidents; Chelsea Steer - Fundraising; Deeti Arora - Student Wellbeing; Maryam Mushtaque - School Improvement and Global Citizenship. We are all incredibly excited to start working in our new roles and hope to serve the school well as the SRC Executive for 2020.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that the following Year 11 SRC members have been elected to the Governing Council sub-committees: Maddy Wallace – Uniform; Lisa Hutchins – Fundraising; Bonnie Coventry – Canteen; Michaela Collins – Physical Resources. These students will represent the student voice, concerns and interests on their committees, and we hope they gain invaluable insights into the governance of our school.

Training Day

The SRC Executive ran a Training Day for members of the SRC, in order to bond as a group and enable new students to understand the purpose of the SRC and identify our goals for 2020. Activities revolved around icebreaking, SRC legacy, teamwork, communication, confidence and debating. As well as a delicious morning tea provided by Kate in the canteen...yum! Activities included, whodunit, interviewing a partner about their skills, snakes, talk for a minute, SRC legacy and what we would like (Wellbeing, Global citizenship, Fundraising), and school improvement ideas. Overall, it was a huge success, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. We identified our goals, came together as a group, and most importantly had a lot of fun.

Character Day

The SRC decided to add a theme to the Term 2 Casual Day, voted on as a Character Day. We voted to raise money for World Vision and their efforts to support COVID-19 healthcare in Australia and, in particular, developing world countries. It was a huge success, with teachers and students alike dressing up as their favourite characters from books, movies, vines, anime and video games. The costume parade was also a huge hit, with more entries than we expected and some fierce competition. We raised more than \$650 and we are very pleased to be donating this to World Vision and their efforts in healthcare, education and equipment in vulnerable communities.

School Improvement

Finally, the SRC has decided that our major project for this year will be the improvement of the benches and the courtyard. More information will come soon, but the SRC Executive and Michaela Collins, the Physical Resources representative, will collaborate with the Physical Resources Committee to communicate the student body's interest in these areas of school improvement. How exciting!

Sarah Chambers
Assistant Principal Senior School



Middle School

Possibly the most unsettled start to a term *any* students have experienced in recent years, would have meant that for our Year 7s and Year 8s – having only just started their high school journey – the disruption was magnified. And so what a credit to our younger learners, that they have come back reinvigorated and ready to pick up where they left off. What resilience!

This term has also been a term of: assemblies on Teams; the start of more clubs; sports restarting; a welcome back celebration on the oval; goal-setting in Year 9; Heathy Minds in Year 8; Year 7s feeling like primary school is now a distant memory!

To celebrate coming back to school after three weeks of self-isolation, a lunch time celebration was held for Middle School students on the school oval. Senior Peer Leaders ran a number of activities to encourage the younger students to reconnect with their friends and make new ones. Activities included a crazy hat competition, tug of war, sack races, musical statues, 3-legged races and more.

The Year 9 students have been busy exploring what makes a successful student and looked at a range of strategies to ensure they are being effective learners. As part of the Care Group Program, they analysed their performance with their Term 1 report and applied SMART goals to work toward for the remainder of the semester.

Congratulations to the following Year 9 students for a positive and successful start to the school year being awarded Academic certificates for their efforts during Term 1:



Academic Distinction Recipients

Rianna Herring	Dakshyani Muniandy
Kelly Spreitzer	Maggie Lenger
Emeli Rivett	Nicola Strever
Rebecca Trezona	Georgie Wooller

Academic Credit Recipients

Emily Bryce	Caitlin Dabinet
Ashleigh Edwards	Airlie Goldsmith
Maya Harvey	Isabella Kamau Kigotho
Laiba Khokhar	Isabel Leach
Mia Patrick	Carla Strever
Sanjana Varakavi	

Endeavour Certificates focus on attitudes to learning and are presented to students who demonstrate four criteria in the majority of their subjects. It was very pleasing to see that 41 students from the Year 9 cohort received this award.

A special mention to the following Year 9 students who received 100% consistently across the criteria in all seven subjects:

Zara Bowles	Caitlin Dabinet
Ashleigh Edwards	Rianna Herring
Isabella Kamau Kigotho	Jasinta Morris
Dakshyani Muniandy	Jade O'Dwyer
Mia Patrick	Carla Strever
Nicola Strever	Rebecca Trezona

As we enter Semester 2, we are excited to see how the learners in our Middle School continue to build their resilience, passion for life-long learning and achieve their goals.

Mark Whitehorn
Assistant Principal Middle School



HASS

Year 7 Economics and Business

Recently, Year 7 HASS classes completed an Economics and Business component, learning about the design process through constructing their own board games.

Groups came up with their very own prototype and received feedback from their class members about how to improve and refine their product. The last step was, of course, to play the games and see how well they worked. Games and students shown are from Ms Tomlian, Ms Jordan and Mr Phillips classes.

Sharyn Clarke
HASS Coordinator



Science

Year 7 Science/STEM

This term, Year 7 students have continued participating in a range of engaging activities that showcase key scientific concepts.

They have conducted experiments involving testing the drop times of parachutes, unbalanced and balanced forces and separating mixtures.

From the STEM aspect, students have created and tested bottle rockets while also learning about the benefits of tidal and hydroelectric energy. The main component of the second half of the term was for students to learn about space and the incorporation of digital technology skills through robotics applications. This saw students using the EV3 robotics kits as well as using Spheros to develop coding skills along with conducting 'virtual excursions' to different planets to see which one had the most similar properties to Earth in order to determine which would be most suitable to colonise. One of the STEM practicals involved coding a Sphero to autonomously navigate 'a mars surface' in order to complete a research mission.



Oliphant Science Awards

At the end of last term, students within Years 7 and 8 were working on their own individualised projects for the Oliphant Science Awards.

We have seen some amazing entries in the categories of Photography, Models and Interactive Displays, Games, Robotics, Multi Media and Posters. This year has seen one of the largest number of entries submitted across both year levels. A big thankyou to the classroom teachers and Mrs Cullen who has coordinated the program.



Year 8 -10 Science

The Year 8 Science classes have been investigating energy as one of their main topics in Term 2. Students have learnt about energy transfers and transformations. Students created videos where they demonstrated the energy transfers in everyday actions. Students also have learnt the correct use and techniques of operating stereomicroscopes to investigate microscopic organisms.

The Year 9 Science classes have been looking into the ecology, body systems and geological processes and structures of the Earth. They have completed activities involving creating their own animal that can survive and adapt to a variety of different environments as well investigating the impact that earthquakes have on society.

The Year 10 classes have finished their astronomy unit and have moved into work around psychological science. They studied the difference in distances between stars and how that related to brightness and colour. Students are now conducting to design an investigation to test the impact of one variable on the skill game. They will try this game 'normally' and record your time, rating and feelings.

Year 11/12 Chemistry

The first semester of Chemistry produced some amazing outcomes with students.

The Stage 1 class has conducted a series of practicals where they created esters and polymers. The Stage 2 class will be conducting their main practical investigation involving titrations in the Term 2 holidays. They've had a number of trial runs in the lead up and the girls are feeling confident about carrying out the experiment.

David Fargher
Science Coordinator

Languages

Italian

Buongiorno!

On Tuesday 2 June students at Mitcham Girls High School celebrated La Festa della Repubblica, Italy's National Day of Independence. The day commemorates the coming together of Italy at the end of WWII. To celebrate at Mitcham Girls High School, students decorated star biscuits in the Millhouse Centre during lunch time. It was wonderful to see so many students come to help celebrate the day!

We would like to thank all Language students for their participation in the Education Perfect World Championships for 2020. Our students did a wonderful job with over 60 students receiving a certificate for their efforts. The Languages faculty would also like to congratulate Ashleigh Edwards (Year 9) for achieving the highest award in the school, earning an Emerald Award in the competition. With the help of so many dedicated students, Mitcham Girls High School came 1st Place for Italian in South Australia; an amazing achievement! To celebrate, the Italian students will be having a small celebration in the final week of this term.

A presto,

Signorina Vaudo e Signorina Gagliardi



Performing Arts

Inaugural MGHS Drama Club

The inaugural MGHS Drama Club took place on Wednesday of Week 7 in the school's Performing Arts Centre. A total of 21 students from Years 7 to 10 came together to have some fun, expand on their Drama, improve skills and laugh...a LOT!

We are so fortunate to have Kirsty Wigg, who specialises in teaching improvisation to school, youth, adult and corporate groups, run MGHS's Drama club for our students. Kirsty will be joining us for two ten-week sessions where students will have the opportunity to develop their improvisation, characterisation and stage craft skills in a fun, safe and encouraging environment. Each week will consist of a mix of Drama games, exercises and scene work.

I am looking forward to seeing the impact that improvisation and Drama training can have on students' confidence and collaboration skills, and to see students having a good time and making new friends.

If you are interested in joining the Drama Club, there are still spaces available! Please see Ms Ralph for further details.

Kate Ralph
Drama Teacher



Senior School

Return to face-to-face classes

Our Senior School students have thoroughly appreciated the return to face-to-face classes after finishing Term 1 in an online learning mode. However, many have also learnt a great deal from the experience in terms of skills in self-directed learning, digital learning environments and online lessons. These skills, whilst not our preferred method of learning, will stand them in good stead for their pathways beyond school in our dynamic and constantly changing world of work. We congratulate them and their teachers for their flexibility, adaptability and versatility at this time.

Care Group Program

This term, students in Senior School Care Groups have been looking at positive relationships, social etiquette and communication. Activities have focused on the importance of awareness in all areas of communication, but particularly online etiquette in our increasingly digital environment.

SACE Semester Changeover

All students enrolled in SACE Stage 1 courses commenced second semester subjects in Week 9 of Term 2. This changeover is a fantastic opportunity for students to reflect on learnings from Semester 1 and start afresh in Semester 2. Subject changes have now closed, with many students adjusting courses based on their experiences in Semester 1, demonstrating a growing awareness of their strengths and areas of interest for future study, work and community life.

SACE Special Provisions

Achieving the SACE is based on students' ability to show what they have learned during their studies. For some students, this can be made difficult due to circumstances beyond their control. The SACE Board allows Special Provisions when students have an illness or impairment that affects their ability to participate in an assessment task.

However, it is important to be aware that impacts to learning due to disruptions around COVID-19 are not eligible for Special Provisions. Due to the fact that interruptions due to COVID-19 have been experienced by all students, the SACE Board has instead made adjustments for all students within specific subjects. For more information about SACE changes due to COVID-19, go to <https://www.sace.sa.edu.au/covid-19-coronavirus>.

If you believe your Stage 1 or 2 student may be eligible for special provisions for reasons other than COVID-19, please encourage her to speak with Ms Chambers or a Student Wellbeing Leader for further information.

SACE Stage 2 Trial Examination Week

All students who undertake an external examination at the end of the year will be doing a trial exam during Week 1 of Term 3. Students who study subjects without an external examination will attend all lessons as normal, except when there is a clash with an examination subject. The exam will take precedence. The exams will run from Monday to Friday.

Parents and students have been informed of the timetable via Daymap and email. This may involve students attending school at times when they would normally have study lessons. Where the exam occurs outside a normal timetabled lesson, students also attend their normally scheduled lesson/s. Some exams will last for three hours so it is important that students plan their outside commitments in order to attend.

The exams will be undertaken as closely as possible to mirror the end of year processes. This includes the new electronic examination (e-exam) format for English Literary Studies, Psychology and Biology.

Changes to University Entry

Parents and students might be aware of recent reports in the media about some changes to university entry in 2021. In response to the unprecedented circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the University of Adelaide has announced an alternative entry pathway into some courses next year based on 2019 Year 11 results. Students whose applications are successful will receive an early conditional offer from September 2020, around one month after SATAC applications for this alternative entry pathway close. However, it is important for students to be aware that some Year 12 requirements do still apply and the alternative entry is not available for all courses.

Further details are available on the University of Adelaide website at <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/study/undergraduate/year11-entry-pathway/>

Additionally, Flinders University will once again be offering uniTEST to current Year 12 students as an entry pathway for 2021. uniTEST is an aptitude test that has been developed to assess the kinds of generic reasoning and thinking skills that underpin studies at higher education and that are needed for students to be successful at this level. uniTEST is offered to students at no cost and they cannot be disadvantaged by participating. Flinders University will select applicants based on both their Year 12 results (60% weighting toward the ATAR selection rank) and uniTEST results (40%). Furthermore, for 2021 Flinders University will also consider applicants based on their uniTEST results (100%) as a standalone entry score (subject to SACE completion and any course pre-requisites or specific admission requirements).

Course Counselling for 2021

It is hard to believe that we are looking towards 2021 already! However, more information about the subject selection and course counselling process this year will be available at the start of Term 3. Teachers are preparing video resources for students about subject opportunities and we will be using Zoom to meet with students and their families to discuss pathways and options in September. We hope that our new found online skills will enable more effective and efficient discussions around individual programs and pathways for our students. Parents of students in Years 9 to 11, please keep an eye out for information early Term 3.

Sarah Chambers
Assistant Principal Senior School

Senior School

PLP Mock Interviews

On Tuesday 16 June, Semester 1 PLP students participated in Mock Interviews. This required them to produce a cover letter and resumé, apply for a casual job in retail or hospitality and then sit an interview.

Most of the students were quite nervous as they had not been interviewed before but represented the school well by dressing the part and preparing their responses to expected questions. This is an assessment task, one of five in the Personal Learning Plan subject (a compulsory SACE subject).

Thank you to Sonia Harrison (ISCA), Catherine Frost (parent), Ruth Tobin, Evelyn Pain (parent), Ulus Fuat (City of Mitcham), Raema Mahoney (Zonta) and Adi Swanson (parent) for donating your time and expertise.

Thank you also to Mark Whitehorn, Kylie Dospisil, Vanessa Cole, Ceri-Jane Price, Sue King, David Fargher, Jade Lauer, Libby Kelsh and Linda Baird (MGHS staff members).

Jill Olifent

Student Wellbeing Leader & Pathways Co-ordinator / PLP Teacher

Summer Bowles

Student Wellbeing Leader and International Student Manager / PLP Teacher

Deborah Dodd

Teacher Librarian / PLP Teacher



Notices

School Bus

School Bus 884: The SA Public Transport Authority has advised that from Monday 20 July (Term 3), School Bus 884 will operate along the same route but it will be express between Bus Stop 165 Cross Road and Bus Stop 16 South Eastern Freeway. This is to ensure that students using this bus are travelling into the Hills. Any students wishing to travel between the school and the Cross Road/Portrush Road/South Eastern Freeway intersection will need to catch either a Bus 100 or Bus 300.

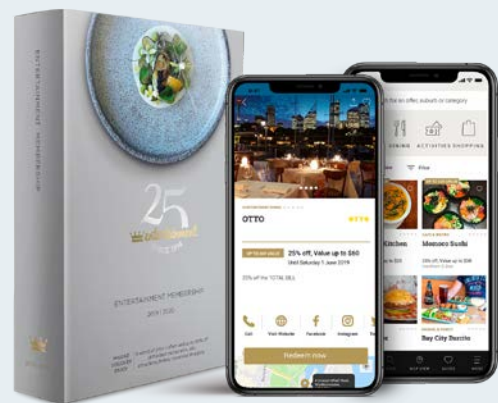
School Canteen

On Monday 29 June the school canteen will go live with the QKR App, a secure and easy way to order and pay for items from the canteen.



- Order and pay for Recess and Lunch, reducing the need to bring cash to school.
- See your receipts on the app and they will be sent by email if required.
- Avoid queuing/paying in line. Students collect from the pick-up point using their student ID.
- Don't miss out on your favourite items, simply order in advance!

Download the QKR App from Google Play or the App store (it's free). Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you require any assistance.



Entertainment Book

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