



Cooks' Watch

James Cook Boys
Technology High School

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Principal – Mr M. Marciniak

This term we consolidated on all the fantastic work that our teachers have been doing everyday and on the great progress all our students are making academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually to be well rounded contributing citizens.

Congratulations to all our HSC students who received their HSC and ATAR results on Tuesday 17th December. We as a school and no doubt you as parents are very proud of our overall achievements. We achieved representation in the Visual Arts with one of our students having their work selected to be exhibited at the Hazelhurst Gallery. Congratulations to all our students who achieved in the top bands in their HSC subjects and congratulations to Calvin Jacob for obtaining a Band 6 in Mathematics and Mathematics Extension. Jacob is the second Year 10 student in two years to be accelerated in Maths and achieve two Bands sixes whilst being in Year 10. This phenomenal effort is largely due to our compressed Stage 5 curriculum that JCBTHS offers to provide students with a talent in Mathematics the opportunity to be challenged to achieve their full potential.

Well done to all our award recipients who were acknowledged at our Presentation Day. There were so many students nominated for academic, sporting, leadership and community awards. I would like to thank all the recipients and also those who were not recognised at our presentation day, but who have continued to make positive progress in their learning and their development as young men in our community. I am so proud of our school and of our students in terms of their sense of belonging, their mature approach to dealing with difficult situations, the way they represent themselves inside and outside the school, for their continued pursuit to improve themselves and reflect on areas of improvement. We as a school have grown enormously over the last five years. That cultural change is due to our great and committed teachers, the hard work that all of our students commit to every day not only to improve themselves but for all of us to grow, change and improve every term every year. It is the incremental progress that all of us make that collectively makes a difference and should be acknowledged. This year I was awarded the Secondary Principal's Award. The award however is not for the work I have done, it acknowledges the work that we, students, staff, parents and community have done to change and uplift the performance and profile of our great school. At the end of 2020 we will start planning for our School Plan 2021 -2023. Through that process we will be consolidating on six years of transformation school improvement and grounding another three year school plan to

consolidate nine years' worth of work. From what we have achieved so far which is truly remarkable I am so excited to embark on the next stage of our continued journey for school improvement. We have exceeded most of our aspirational targets for the next two years through our outstanding performance in NAPLAN growth and we are well within reach of achieving our school trajectories for future performance. We have built systems and curriculum structures to support and excel student academic ability and we have developed what I believe to be one of the best wellbeing proactive social/emotional educational programs to cater for our young men "The Best Man Program". We have become the standout school for boys education in the area, we are the leaders of STEM education across our district, we have more than doubled our Year 7 intake in 4 years, we have outperformed schools in our expected NAPLAN growth, we continue to outperform local schools in our HSC results, we have an outstanding acceleration program and we are still in the process of moving toward whole school excellence. Despite all the challenges that we face and the potential criticisms that we are constantly measured against, NAPLAN, PISA results, ATAR and the questionable validity that these measures have on assessing a school and a student's ability to be sufficiently prepared for a workplace that is rapidly changing. I am confident that our results, our values, the skills that we develop within our students, their creativity, their ability to be innovative and compassionate understanding young men will readily equip them to succeed not only in their generation but also have an impact on the next. I am proud of you all and value the time and the conversations we have together. It is a privilege to be the principal of JCBTHS and I look forward to working with the staff, students, parents and community in another successful year in 2020.



No To Domestic Violence Walk – Mr J. Dangas

Friday 22nd of November marked the international campaign against violence towards women (known internationally as White Ribbon day). To commemorate this event Georges River Council hosted a No To Domestic Violence Walk as a collective stand on domestic violence.



James Cook Boys Technology High School (JCBTHS) passionately supports raising awareness about this issue which directly affects 1 in every 4 children which equates to thousands of families in Australia. Our school community as a whole plays a leading role in supporting local council by actively participating in the local march against violence to show our community that as young men (and the school as a whole) we are against such a horrendous act which has long lasting devastating effects on our current and future generation.



Prior to the march JCBTHS invited our local primary, secondary schools and local MPs to our morning assembly. Our local MPs alongside our Principal and Youth Support worker addressed our school assembly regarding raising awareness and taking personal responsibility to challenge any form of abusive behaviour towards others.

As a whole our students actively participated in the march which showed our local community that we want to take a vigilant stance against any form of violence. Our students did us proud by showing maturity and respect towards others throughout the day. Well done also to the collective efforts of all the staff in coordinating this event. I am proud to say that JCBTHS plays a leading role in raising awareness for such an important campaign. Well done!

Year 10 Excursion to Canberra – Mr J. Bulfon

This year was our inaugural Year 10 trip to Canberra. On this trip Ms Blatchford, Mr Hedges and Mr Bulfon took 12 eager Year 10 students to learn more about their place in Australia and to further deepen their bonds of friendship and their role in society.

Along the journey, the students visited a number of historical and cultural sites. Our first stop was New Parliament House. The students were privileged enough to observe the House of Representatives in action, with the heated questions being in full view for our students to see. It was a pleasure to watch this as the students were eager to observe how our country is run by a number of different people, all coming from different backgrounds and perspectives. We were lucky enough to meet the Honourable Scott Morrison, where the students were star struck and in awe.

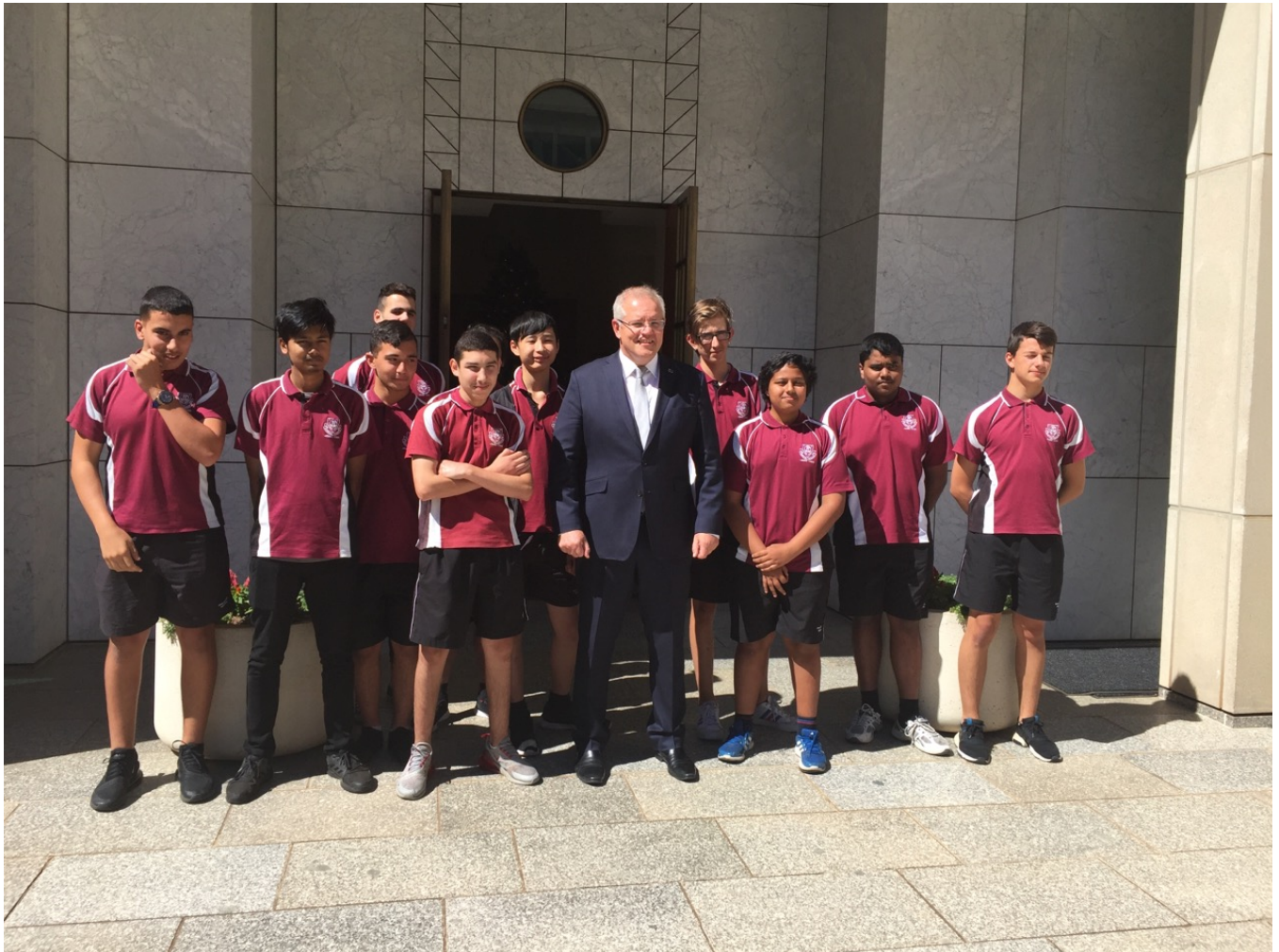
On the second day, we visited a number of different museums. Each one was able to highlight the importance of Australia's history. We started off at the Australian National Museum, where the students developed a background understanding of how Australia was settled and the various struggles that the townsfolk had to endure. Afterwards we made our way to the Australian War Memorial. The students showed respect and humility as they observed and appreciated the sacrifices that our war veterans had made during the number of military campaigns that Australia has been involved in.

In the latter half of the second day, our students went to either the High Court of Australia or the National Portrait Gallery. Both groups were able to understand and appreciate the significance both venues have had on Australia's legal and cultural society. Before calling it a day, we had the opportunity to enjoy our childhood and experience the sense of wonder of scientific discovery at Questacon. There were a number of exhibits that helped the students apply their knowledge from school and demonstrate their understanding at the Living Robots, Weather in the World and Optical Illusion exhibits.

On the last day of the trip, we spent a couple hours at the prestigious Australian National University. The students were able to ask a student volunteer all their questions about post-high school life and the experiences that may await them at university.

Overall, this trip was a huge success. The students had an amazing opportunity to deepen their appreciation of Australia and in addition further solidifying their bonds with their fellow classmates. On behalf of Ms Blatchford, Mr Hedges and Mr Bulfon, Thank you to the students who came on this wonderful opportunity and to their parents for allowing them to partake on this trip.

Canberra was an exciting and well organised excursion. I enjoyed the team activities. The day we spent at the museums was very educational. The Australian War Memorial was massive and very interesting. The time we had in ANU, although short, gave me a good perspective on what university will be like and made me excited for the future. - R. Faour



It was a pleasure being a part of the Canberra excursion with my fellow classmates and wonderful teachers. We had the opportunity to visit Parliament House and watch Questions without Notice Session for a short period of time. It was a privilege meeting the Prime Minister and taking a couple of pictures as a group with him. The accommodation was pretty good too. We had fun doing some team activities where we bonded as a year group, it was fun. I would like to thank Mr Bulfon for his hard work for making this possible. Ms Blatchford for her amazing company, and Mr Hedges for driving us for the whole trip. Thank you to Mr Marciniak and Mr Mallios for allowing this wonderful trip to happen. This trip was really fun and I recommend it for next year. - C. Jacobs

Year 7 2020 Orientation Day – Ms. H Mehdi

On Tuesday 3rd of December, James Cook Boys Technology High School hosted its annual Year 7 Orientation Day. We welcomed our 2020 Year 7 cohort who all arrived excited and eager about the day ahead. The incoming cohort and parents were greeted by our School Captains, Imran Khan and Justin Mukadana, and Ms Mehdi, the 2020 Year 7 Advisor. Principal Mr Marciniak addressed guests and gave insight into the forthcoming journey of the young boys, including being a part of our expanding extracurricular programs.

At the conclusion of the orientation assembly, students engaged in in-class experiences, making connections with their peers in collective learning opportunities. The boys took part in three workshop sessions, Science, Robotics and Physical Education. Science teacher, Ms Cvetkovska led chemistry themed experiments that captivated the mind. With great wonder and fascination, students carried out three tests where they made observations, conducted experiments and evaluated results. The second workshop was run by Mr Jordan and saw the boys participating in our thriving Robotics program. The students were active participants in creatively programming, constructing and collaborating as they built and coded LEGO robots. The Physical Education session was run by Mr Sawford. Students were learning through movement activities, improving their capacity to perform with skill and confidence. Student helpers assisted with running the sessions alongside their teachers, helping to develop the social confidence amongst new peers and acquaint them with the friendly culture of the school.



The day concluded with a sausage sizzle lunch. Parents arrived and were greeted by beaming student faces. It is sure that minds are at ease and nerves have subsided as all students are looking forward to starting in the year ahead. With much anticipation, we look forward to a wonderful 2020 experience.

Planter Box Mural – Ms H. Cork

Over four days in December students from 8, 9, 10 and 11 have worked collaboratively to paint a mural around the 3 concrete planter boxes in the school's main quadrangle. Despite the scorching temperatures and poor air quality, the students have persevered and executed a dynamic and bright addition to the school environment. The design for the mural was inspired by the tropical jungles of French artist Henri Rousseau, borrowing accent colours from the existing planted flowers and allowing enough flexibility for the students to incorporate their own plant inspired motifs and individual styles.

Students who have contributed to the mural project are congratulated for their skill, teamwork and perseverance. A magnificent effort by all. Special thank you Ms Dauter and Ms Blatchford for their assistance and to the 2019 HSC Visual Art students Jamie and Omar who gave up their time to participate in the project.



Mural artists:

Year 8: Ryan Dale, Ben Kelemete, Javier Lemus, Adam El Atem and Marco Villanueva

Year 9: Rohan Gurung, Michael Kapsalakis, Rocco Hamadi, Blake Crank and Dimitri Hasapis

Year 10: Chrys Michas

Year 11: Alex Constantinou



Wave Changers – Mr M. Colucci

The Wave Changers program was a joint program between James Cook Boys Technology High School and Shopfront Arts Co-op. Our students participated in multiple film-making workshops and gained new skills by working with experienced film-makers. Throughout the program, our students were provided with various film-recording equipment and enjoyed learning how to operate the technology. Students also had the opportunity to learn about the processes of film-making and the plethora of camera techniques which a film-maker could employ to enhance the story. To conclude the program, our students' projects were presented at the Casula Powerhouse in November and provided them with the opportunity to experience multicultural foods, visual arts and performances. Our students that attended the excursion found the experience to be worthwhile and allowed them to view the works of other schools that were involved in the program. Overall, the Wave Changers Program was a positive experience and many of the students will continue to develop their film-making skills from their new-found interests.



Donations of School Uniforms

Has your son outgrown their uniform?

Is your son now in senior uniform and has an unwanted junior uniform still at home?

We gladly welcome second-hand and unwanted uniforms as donations.

Donations can be left at the Front Office.

Modern Greek Excursion – Mr N. Pikis

On Thursday the 21st of November the Year 7 Modern Greek students visited Loxandra restaurant at Ramsgate, learning about both Greek food and culture.

The students had the opportunity sample various traditional Greek dishes such as haloumi, souvlakia, tzatziki and loukmaes. The students also had the opportunity to use some the Greek language skills they developed throughout the year.

The staff at Loxandra not only provided the students with fantastic food and service, but also shared information about the history of Greek food and the important role it plays in Greek culture.

All the students were grateful to Ms Kyriotis who organised this fantastic day.



Captain and Prefect Induction – Imran Khan & Justin Mukadana

On Friday, James Cook Boys Technology High School held a formal induction ceremony for the 2020 School Captains and Senior Prefect. James Cook Boys Technology High school would like to thank the special guests, parents, neighbouring high schools, staff and students that attended and supported the passing on of the School Captain role. A special thanks to MP Steve Kamper, DEL Craig Smith, Sydney Technical High School and Moorefield Girls High School for taking time out of their day to celebrate this honourable achievement. This commemorates the role of responsibility and leadership skills that have been handed down by the previous school captains and prefects of James Cook Boys Technology High School.





School Uniforms

School uniforms are available for purchase from Lowes at Rockdale Plaza.
For enquires please contact Lowes Rockdale on 9553 6984

Change of details

It is important that all student information and records are kept up to date. This is particularly vital in the case of emergency where the school needs to contact a student's parents or caregivers.

Have your contact details or phone numbers changed?
Have you moved or changed your residential or postal address?
Are your emergency contact details out of date?

If you answered yes to these questions please update your personal details by contacting the school on 9587 1770.

Carpark



Dear Parents/Carers

Please note that JCBTHS has recently placed speed humps and signage in our carpark. If you are picking up your son after school please try to enter the carpark before 2:50pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday. If you are picking up your son on Wednesday (sport day) please try and arrive before 2:15pm and Thursday before 2pm to ensure that vehicles are not entering the carpark when students are leaving. Once you are in the school carpark please park your vehicle past the planter bed which is in line with the second speed hump. When you have collected your son please be patient when leaving the school and wait for a signal from the staff member present in the carpark that is directing the traffic. Under all circumstances when entering or leaving the school carpark please obey the 10km speed limit and be extremely careful of pedestrians entering or leaving the carpark. Your cooperation in this matter is important to looking after the welfare of our students, staff and community.