26 November 2019

**FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENT**

Our 107th Awards Evening was another successful night on the Charters Towers State High School event calendar where we celebrated Excellence in Academic, Cultural and Sporting areas. I highly commend all our students on their participation in the evening. Our performers are also to be congratulated for the quality entertainment they provided. My congratulations go to the students who were recognised for their achievements. I trust that your recognition combined with the knowledge of the achievements of others will encourage you to continue to focus on your future and continue to do your best to be your best.

**Prestigious Award Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholar of the Year - Year 7</td>
<td>Amy Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar of the Year - Year 8</td>
<td>Enshella Elgezawy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar of the Year - Year 9</td>
<td>Amanda Forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar of the Year - Year 10</td>
<td>Daniel Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar of the Year - Year 11 Tertiary Pathway</td>
<td>Joseph Reid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar of the Year - Year 11 Industry Pathway</td>
<td>Amy Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar of the Year - Year 12 Tertiary Pathway</td>
<td>Vanessa Richter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar of the Year - Year 12 Industry Pathway</td>
<td>Stephanie Lowe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Award Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year</td>
<td>Keegan McLachlan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist of the Year</td>
<td>Sinead Cowan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musician of the Year</td>
<td>Colby Coffison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Performer of the Year</td>
<td>Aleisha Langburne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Studies Student of the Year</td>
<td>Sinead Cowan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientist of the Year</td>
<td>Makayla Killick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior STEM Student of the Year</td>
<td>Darcy Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior STEM Student of the Year</td>
<td>Vanessa Richter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year</td>
<td>Amy Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Experience Student of the Year</td>
<td>James Bramich</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Again, congratulations to all of these students on their outstanding efforts and remember that you are always a winner when you do your very best!

From the Principal

Unbelievably, Mrs Corcoran, passionate Principal of Charters Towers SHS, who arrives on campus looking fresh and ready for the day does not actually roll out of bed this way. I will spare you the details, but the fact is turning up ready to do my best at school every single day is not always easy; there are days when I want to throw the alarm out the window. But I don’t. Why not?

Because when every one of those obstacles presents itself, when it seems a little hard, I feel tired or giving up is a tantalising option, I have a choice to make. Each one of these is a moment of truth, an instance where I must make a decision to either give in to that negative self-talk, or to turn away from giving up and turn toward being the best I can be.

A Moment of Truth is defined as an important time when you must make a decision quickly, and whatever you decide will have important consequences in the future. I am sure many of us can reflect back to moments in their lives like this; a ‘Sliding Door’ moment, made famous by the film of the same name starring Gwyneth Paltrow. As adults with the benefit of hindsight, we can look back and pinpoint the big occasions, which effected the direction of our lives, but there are so many smaller, more habitual moments where our decisions are effecting our future.

For our students, these moments of truth are occurring every single day, in every single lesson. No better example can be found than amongst our Charters Towers SHS Year 12 graduates who have now entered their next big moment of life beyond school. The culmination of those small positive decisions to turn up every day ready to learn are evident in the choices and options now available to them in their next steps. I am so proud of the way our graduating cohort have applied themselves so diligently not only throughout 2019, but in their efforts and continuous choices to be the best they can be ever since they first walked onto our campus five years ago. Moving forward, these young men and women are walking into the world on the basis of what they have achieved here at Charters Towers SHS; their learning habits, pride in their appearance and their work, ability to apply themselves in a dedicated manner, the honing of their strengths and the conscious effort to improve on what they find challenging. All of those little moments of truth have added up to this big, pivotal one. Have they positioned themselves in the finest possible way for their future? Have they been steadfast in their self-belief? Have they done their best? These are not just questions for our Year 12s, but for every single student attending this school.

I encourage every one of our students to ask themselves whether they are actively doing their best in every moment of every day. Every day, each student is expected to be the best they can be in every facet of their education program at State High, from how they wear their uniform, to their attendance and their efforts in the classroom, but most importantly, in their choosing to do their best in every single moment at our school.
In delivering a school culture where we develop the individual in a caring environment is an absolute given, turning toward being the best they can be in the countless moments of truth our students face each day should be a given too. And, honestly, when supporting our students from home and on campus, to help foster and grow their own innate self-belief that they can flourish and be successful, is what helps me turn away from throwing that alarm out the window, and toward doing my best for our students and staff.

**Year 12 Graduation**

On Friday, 13 November, our 2019 Year 12 Graduates entered into a new chapter as they walked out of the Charters Towers State High School gates for the last time. A proud day for all families filled with a lot of emotion. My Principal’s Address included the following:

> I reflected on all that I’ve watched you experience: achieving your goals, making it through the rough times that come with growing up and, in some way, helped you celebrate and appreciate yourself, your successes and your life story thus far. I’ve thought a lot about what I could say to you here at YOUR graduation. I say to you, Class of 2019, What can we each do to make a difference in this world?, to be the change that we want to see, to make a difference in the lives of others and ourselves, to learn what each of us can do to **LIVE OUR BEST STORY**.

> **DREAM BIG.** Always continue to learn. Take time to appreciate your successes but always take responsibility for your failures. Be resilient, courageous and optimistic. **LIVE YOUR BEST STORY.** More than anything, remember to be grateful. Gratitude opens the door to life and your story. Express your gratitude today particularly to your parents, teachers and fellow graduates, all who have supported you towards this milestone in life.

> And now, as my few moments come to a close…
> I hope that as you live your best story…. Your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles… To the highest of your hopes… To the windows of your opportunities, And to the most special places your heart has ever known.

Thank you to Mrs Kelly Kuhz, Mrs Belinda Lobegeiger, Ms Kia Hall, Mrs Kylie Webber and their band of helpers – these events simply do not happen without considerable planning and preparation.

My **WISH** is that students graduating from Charters Towers State High School continue to develop skills to successfully access further learning and employment and also the humanity to make our world a better place.

My **STAR** for this week is a celebration of student achievement as 2019 data collection indicates **100% Year 12 Certification** for Charters Towers State High School.

This is the result of the excellent work occurring at this school around QCE and QCIA attainment. I would like to acknowledge all teaching and support staff for the work they do towards supporting every student, every day towards achieving successful outcomes. I thank you for your significant role which afforded this success for State High students. The impact of ensuring every student succeeds in gaining certification at the end of Year 12 is life-changing. The school community wishes each of the graduates all the best in their future endeavours.

**Finishing dates**

A reminder that students are required to be in full time attendance at the school according to the following schedule:

- **Year 10 and 11:** Friday 29 November
- **Year 7, 8 and 9:** Friday 13 December

Before leaving school this year, all students are required to:

- Return all school resources
- Finalise all outstanding payments

**Starting dates – 2020**

School will commence for all year levels on Tuesday 28th January 2020.


I hope you have a lovely few weeks with your family. Principal

**Mrs Kaye Corcoran**

Principal

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**SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

**School Resource Scheme Fees for 2020**

A review of the school resource scheme fees has resulted in a change for 2020.

The Student Resource Scheme has been implemented in this school to ensure that all students have the necessary resources, materials, textbooks and consumables to support their educational requirements. It is also intended as a convenience to parents/caregivers to provide a more economical option to purchasing all the requirements for each subject studied.

The Student Resource Scheme operates at this school under the policy and guidelines of the Department of Education (DoE). The Charters Towers State High School Parents’ and Citizens’ Association endorsed the school’s operation of the Student Resource Scheme and fee for 2020 at its September meeting.
Parents/caregivers wishing to take advantage of participating in the Scheme provided by the school pay an annual flat fee of $250.00 and complete and sign the Student Resource Scheme Participation Agreement Form.

Participation in the Student Resource Scheme is voluntary however, the decision not to participate will involve parents/caregivers providing all textbooks required, pay the subject and year specific fees along with the entire student costs amount. If you are not participating, the Student Resource Scheme Participation Agreement Form is required to be returned with No indicated.

School Day Configuration for 2020

Next year, students will start the day at 8.40 with an assembly followed by a 35 minute JCE / QCE lesson focus on wellbeing, career development and our strengths circle. We have introduced a 105 minute block for session 2 and 3 that will support our students into new senior. The school day configuration for 2020 is outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td>8:40 – 8:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>8:55 – 9:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>9:35 – 10:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>10:10 – 11:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>11:20 – 12:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>12:05 – 12:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 5</td>
<td>12:45 – 1:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>1:20 – 1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 6</td>
<td>1:50 – 3:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSITIVE EDUCATION

An introduction for Parents about Restorative Practices.

Our school has made a very important decision this year in becoming a Restorative School. Using Restorative Practices isn’t something we take lightly. We’ve been watching what’s been happening in the world of education when it comes to creating a strong school culture, to building effective relationships, to resolving conflict and to improving student behaviour and bullying. The bottom line is that we think there’s a better way.

Restorative Practices is that way. Working restoratively is really all about asking the right questions to students when things go wrong. You see, most approaches have us putting our detective hats on and focusing everything in the past. It really doesn’t get us very far because we never get to the present or the future.

Put simply, we’ll be asking your children questions like:

- What happened?

- How has that made people feel?

- And what action needs to be taken to make that better?

It’s all about teaching responsibility for your actions and knowing that nobody is going to do it for you. Our job is to help them do just that … better and better and better.

Our ongoing Partnership with Real Schools is supporting and resourcing us to make this change to build a strong restorative school community. We encourage parents to access the Real Schools website at the link below or further information and to have a look at all that we’re working on at school.


Stay tuned for more information on this exciting development for our school.

Matt Corcoran

QUALITY ASSURANCE

What a wonderful year it has been at State High! Our students have reaped the benefits of the dedication and talents of our wonderful staff, in and out of the classroom. Over the past month we have farewelled our wonderful 2019 Year 12 cohort and celebrated the end of 12 Years of schooling. Following graduation, our students are eagerly awaiting the release of their end of year result, QCS, OPs, QCEs and Tertiary Entrance Statements. We wish all our graduating students all the very best for the future.

Release of Year 12 Results:

- Friday 13th December QCAA posts QCEs, Senior Statements, Statements of Results, QCIA and Tertiary Entrance Statements to Year 12 students.

- Saturday 14th December – students will be able to access all results contributing to the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), OP’s in their student learning accounts on the Student Connect website: https://studentconnect.qcaa.edu.au

Our Year 11 students have completed the first year of the New Senior system. Our staff have worked extremely hard over the past year to ensure that our students are fully prepared for external exams in 2020.

Year 10 students who have applied for off campus courses or BSDE will need to check their school emails over the holidays, especially in the New Year, as emails will be sent out regarding the requirements for your courses. Please make sure that you read them carefully and follow all instructions.

To the staff who are sadly leaving us at the end of this year to move on to new ventures, I thank you for your commitment to State High, and wish you well. As this year draws to a close I wish all families a very safe Christmas period and thank everyone for your support throughout the year. 2019 has been a very successful year in the Senior School and many people have played a part in supporting our students to achieve so well. I know our
graduates will go on to bright futures and look forward to working with you all again in 2020.

**FACULTY REPORTS**

**ENGLISH, HUMANITIES AND LANGUAGES**

**Year 7**
This term Year 7s are exploring social issues within songs and analysing how effective the songs are in delivering their message to society. Students are enjoying pulling apart the meaning of lyrics and I’m sure will have even more fun communicating their analysis on their beautiful posters!

**Year 8**
Year 8s have been exploring digital technology and how it has impacted our way of life and provides endless possibilities for change in the future. For their upcoming assessment, students are able to embrace their creative writing by devising a futuristic short story set in 2050 that looks at how technologies are impacting the everyday lives of their character/s.

**Year 9**
Students in Year 9 have been reading and comprehending the Hunger Games in preparation for their upcoming presentation. The students have enjoyed reading their novels comfortably, diving deep into the story whilst relaxing on the Library couches or outdoors under a shady tree. Students are to create a persuasive speech, with multimodal elements, that supports or challenges an issue represented in the novel.

**Year 10**
Year 10s are studying the unit ‘Behind the News’ which focuses at looking at the purpose of news stories, both print and online, and how journalists and news outlets can shape what they communicate to persuade an audience’s viewpoint. Students will be delivering engaging presentations that analyse two articles of their choice, comparing similarities and differences and how the article empowers or disempowers the person, event, place or idea within the article.

**Year 11 General English**
Students are currently studying ‘Experiences of Culture’. They are analysing different Australian poems and looking at how the poets have shaped identities within the poems and used the landscape to position the audience to take on a particular perspectives. Students will complete an analytical essay under exam conditions.

**Year 11 Essential English**
Students in Essential English have been looking at different real life human experiences in a variety of movies and novels. For their upcoming assessment they are to take on the role of a student author to create an imaginative short story. Their stories are to take on the perspective of a character not shown in the text and create a recount of their character’s viewpoint. Students are really engaging with this task because it is allowing them to be creative with their writing.

**Year 12**
The entire Year 12 cohort are currently reminiscing on their school days and taking a walk down memory lane as they create their valedictory speeches for their upcoming assessment. Students are loving looking back on their high school experiences, reflecting on the funny and challenging times of high school and realising how far they’ve truly grown.

*Brigette Foot  
English Curriculum Coordinator*

**MATHEMATICS**
Maths continues to provide our students with skills needed to be successful in life

This term our year 7 students have explored indices and Algebraic equations and expressions

Our year 8 students have explored volume and capacity, angles, shapes and congruence.

Our year 9 students Geometric Reasoning and Financial Maths

Our year 10 students Geometric Reasoning.

I would like to wish all of our students well as they complete their final assessments for the year!

*Derek Copelin*

**TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS**
I want to wish our year 12’s all the very best for their future. It only seems like yesterday greeting them as year 8’s joining our school community.

It was equally exciting to see a fresh set of faces as students from our Primary School partners joined us for another exciting High School experience day. We had year 5’s join us in week 5 and the year 6’s in week 6. Their enthusiasm for learning will help them shine in their following years at State High

Our seniors have given it their all in their exam blocks and while our year 12’s have wrapped up their time at High School our year 11’s are getting ready for their final year and our year 10’s
have a growing anticipation for moving into their final stage of learning.

**What have we been learning about this term?**

Our Digital students in 9 and 10 have explored Computer Networks, and Internet based technologies along with technologies needed to meet the needs of businesses.

![Image of computer networks and internet technologies]

Our Digital students in year 7 continue their rotation through programming in Python- for those interested at home resources including the development environment can be downloaded from the website below.

https://www.python.org/downloads/

![Image of Python development environment]

Our Design students continue to explore and use the industry standard design package Auto Desk

For more information regarding this can be found at the link below.


![Image of Auto Desk software]

It has been an exciting time in the Technology area with our students accessing our latest 3D printer giving them a head start moving into the STEM area.

**Derek Copelin**

**WELLBEING**

https://www.canva.com/design/DADjq2gbAOo/hpMGkKUCkeZAcJRUI8IbDw/view?utm_content=DADjq2gbAOo&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton

**Belinda Lobegieger**

**INCLUSIVE PRACTICES**

**Why Inclusive Education?**

- Children with disabilities develop better academic, social and communication skills in an inclusive school environment
- Non-disabled peers in the classroom develop improved self-concept, social awareness and personal values, and demonstrate improved behaviour, and reduced fear of difference
- Teachers become better at teaching effectively and catering to the diverse needs of all students in their classroom
- It is a human right, enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 protects individuals with disability from discrimination when enrolling and attending a regular school education, and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 support the right of students with disability to participate in education ‘on the same basis’ as other students, with ‘reasonable adjustments’ provided.

**What does Inclusion look like?**

**Diversity is Valued**

- every class member’s contribution to the class is expected and welcomed
- every child is expected to progress academically and socially
- every child is seen as having an unwritten future
- every student is engaged and learning every day
- every child is presumed competent
- teachers see catering to the diverse learning needs in their class as an
- inherent part of their typical role
- having children with disabilities in every classroom is an ordinary experience

For more information, please follow this link below.

http://www.qcie.org/resources.html

**Deadly Choices**

Students have been learning about our healthy choices and were asked to design posters to encourage people not to smoke. Students researched and used information they found on the internet and in books to develop their posters.
Year 10 Geography for Life Year 10 Field Trip

Year 10 Geography for Life students Dylan, Archie, Tasmin and Nick along with their teacher Ms Daysh and Teacher’s Aide Ms Thorpe conducted a field trip to the teacher’s car park at Charters Towers SHS at the end of October. The purpose of their field trip was to conduct research to help them to answer the major question that they are investigating this term which is “How has the interaction of geographical processes and human actions changed the characteristics of a place over time and how can these changes be managed into the future?” The students made field sketches and conducted tests on the water porosity and compactness of the soil at two locations as well as collecting all the rubbish they could find in the car park in order to undertake a rubbish survey.

Archie is conducting a test to assess the water porosity of the soil in the car park.

Dylan is conducting a test to measure the compactness of the soil in the car park.

PATHWAYS AND DTTC

As we all get set to take off with another year nearing completion and all classes have concluded, the centre is all primed and students are enrolled in classes for Auto, Engineering, Kitchen Ops and Health for next year. The centre has had a busy year with over 60 students attending which is about 10200 Hrs of student contact. Therefore, it has been a busy year with a variety of projects being completed by the students and the odd lunch cooked by the Kitchen Ops students. The centre also raised over $300 for the biggest morning tea which we hope to build on in 2020.

Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming year.

Tony Shanks