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TOWERS  
*Magazine*  
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## From the Principal



Mr Mark Long

The school year started with the entire school community reflecting and celebrating the HSC success by the class of 2018. The group equalled our best ever state ranking of 27<sup>th</sup> (an improvement from 32<sup>nd</sup> in 2016). The 27<sup>th</sup> ranking equalled the success of the classes of 2010 and 2017. Of course, the HSC class of 2018 like others who have come before them are much more than a four digit number. They achieved and contributed in so many ways both within and beyond the school.

Across the school, I am continually amazed at the work that students are achieving. Their work in classrooms and through the variety of clubs and co-curricular groups is impressive. There are now over 50 clubs running across the school and our model where they are led by students or alumni, with sponsorship by teaching staff who provide expert advice, has allowed many students to find their passions while often working with students from other year groups. The addition of a Head Teacher Co-curricular Programs (Ms Antoinette Pipio) has added to the sustainability of so many programs and we continue to see this aspect of the school go from strength to strength. I am excited by the rich, complex and collaborative work which continues in the school and the wonderful achievements by so many students through various competitions and award programs. In November, we welcomed back two of the world's preeminent experts in Gifted Education, Susan Baum and Robin Schader. It was incredibly insightful to reflect upon how we can continue to support all of the students at the school, as well as sharing this with a number of visiting teachers from across the selective schools network, from interstate and overseas.

Student achievement is evident every day at Penrith and is a reflection of the hard work by students and staff as well as the incredible support offered by families. 2019 has seen an impressive number of students achieve at the highest level. Year 12 students Keshna Jeyadrabalan and William Gao were both awarded Minsters Awards for Excellence at the Sydney Town Hall.

Our grounds have continued to undergo significant upgrades thanks to the generosity of families who contribute both time and money. The upgrade to the school gym, construction of the cafeteria area and the construction of the Alumni Garden, with an initial order of over 300 personalised pavers, have added to the environment that we all enjoy each day. The students have enjoyed the new areas and have played a key part in the decision making process.

We look forward to celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April 2020 and we continue to welcome back a large number of former students for a range of events and our quarterly alumni publication Towers- Alumni continues to grow its reach.

Well done to the entire school community for another successful year. It is an absolute privilege to be the Principal at Penrith.

Mark Long B.PE, B. Ed, M. Ed (Lead)

Being the school captains of Penrith Selective High School over the past year has been a privilege as we have been able to serve the school community and learn the skills required to carry out the many roles and responsibilities that come with this prestigious position.

Our first project run by the Prefects was World Teacher's Day, allowing all students to express their appreciation for all the hard work the staff at PSHS do to support them. The

Prefects made a wall of bags, one for each staff member, that students could slip notes into, and these were delivered to the teachers at a special staff morning tea. Our next major project within the school was 12 Days of Christmas where the Prefect Body alongside the SRC were able to successfully organise and plan an event for all students to enjoy and get in the Christmas Spirit. The 12 Days consisted of various enjoyable activities for students to participate in and possibly win prizes. Through these kinds of activities we are able to raise donations to further improve the environment we learn in everyday and allow students to have a more enjoyable experience at school.

Our biggest event was our Prefect Afternoon Tea, which brought together over 100 students in leadership positions from over 20 selective and local high schools, allowing us to make vital connections with fellow leaders in various different schools. The event was a resounding success, and we received positive feedback from our guests at the conclusion of the night. We hope that the school leaders in the years to come continue some of the traditions we have established, but also form new and different events that will allow their leadership to flourish in the school and local community. The opportunities we have been given to develop our leadership skills and work with a wonderful group of leaders has allowed us to reach our full potential and we look forward to seeing leadership at PSHS to continue to develop in the coming years.

As the school captains of Penrith Selective High School we hope we have made a lasting impact on the students and inspired the younger year groups to take on leadership roles to further grow and develop as students.

**Soham Desai and Aryenish Kavarana**

It's been a wild, fun, but very quick journey as your senior prefects for 2018/19. It truly feels like a moment ago that we were still sitting in the common room with the rest of our fellow prefects, hastily giving a one minute impromptu speech as to why we would make a good senior prefect. Fast forward to the present, and a year has already passed; our duties handed over to Eugenia and Lance.

We have been very fortunate to be a part of the student executive of our prefect group, along with our amazing captains Arye and Soham, and vice captains Jem and Amber. All four of them have been such easy people to work with, and we have had fun providing extra support for them behind the scenes. We enjoyed our regular Monday meetings with Mr Long, to listen and share insights and opinions on school related topics. And to the rest of our 2018/19 prefects, thank you for working with us so smoothly throughout the year. You are all truly lovely people with big futures ahead of you!

Our best 'senior prefect memories' were definitely during our school assemblies. It was a rather bittersweet moment handing down our duties to the 2019/20 prefects.

All in all, dear Penrith, it has been a wonderful journey to be your 2018/19 senior prefects.

Thank you all,

Abraham and Zamanda