

## **CHESS President's 2022 Report**

Following on from Yvonne Giltinan's decade-long leadership of CHESS; a period where CHESS went from near extinction to consistent growth of its membership, and cementing CHESS's association with CHS, 2022-2023 was the first year of my presidency, after serving as vice-president between 2019 and 2021. With a dedicated group of ex-students comprising the CHESS committee, with a mix of long-serving and newer members, we have continued the legacy of previous years. Still affected by the last 3 years of restrictions, we had one major online event, but also managed to rekindle old friendships and make new friends, with a face-to-face end of year dinner. A summary of CHESS's activities in 2022 are listed below:

### Events & School Involvement in 2022

- May - CHESS represented at the CHS Open Day.
- September - Q&A session with ex-student Mic Conway, from CHS Class of 1969.
- November - End-of-year dinner - the first face-to-face CHESS event since 2019.
- CHESS helped promote several reunion events: Class of 1961-1962; Class of 1972; Class of 2012; Class of 2013; Class of 2017.
- CHESS Member Survey was set up to ask our members to comment on how they see the role of CHESS. This information is being used to help direct the activities CHESS focusses on over the next few years.
- Once again, CHESS was represented at the Year 12 Valedictory Evening and end of year school awards evening. CHESS contributed several student awards and nominations to the school, including: 4 Student Achievement Awards; Awards to outstanding Year 10 & 11 literature students, from the Robert Ewins Memorial Fund; donations to the Principal's Well-Being Fund for students who need assistance with their educational costs and a donation to the school library.

### CHESS Initiatives

One of the new initiatives CHESS has driven over the last year is to establish a wider social media presence by creating a CHESS Instagram account, which complements the existing CHESS website and Facebook pages. This is important to ensure that CHESS remains visible to the younger ex-students, who use these social media portals.

### Finances

From a solid membership base and dedicated previous leadership, CHESS continues to remain in a strong position, ensuring we continue to provide achievement awards to students, the Well-Being Fund for students who need assistance, and other donations to the school. The CHESS treasurer's Annual Report has been prepared and made available.

### CHESS Committee

Finally, I want to thank the dedication and hard work of the current (and past) committee members for their commitment to CHESS. I'm sure that CHESS continues to provide a common link for ex-students, from all decades, to meet, reminisce and be part of the CHS community, since we contribute to the current school activities. On this last point, I want to thank the members who continue to maintain financial membership, as without this, we cannot provide the awards and donations.

*Theo Mantamadiotis (Class of 1980) CHESS President (May 2023)*

*representing the committee: Rory Hughes (Secretary), John Stamellos (Treasurer), Jo Newman (Vice-President), & members Bob Taylor, Graeme Cameron, Frank Pagram*