

A summary of key CHESS's activities in 2023 are listed below:

- A CHESS member event was held at CHS in October, with an opportunity for members to meet in the school library and a guided tour of the school buildings and facilities. This event coincided with the end of year school concert, which some members were able to attend. This event demonstrates the strengthened relationship between CHESS and the CHS leadership team – the principal and deputy principals.
- CHESS helped promote several reunion events.
- 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.
- November - End-of-year dinner held in Camberwell, attended by alumni and assistant principal Emmanuel Skoutas.

Promotion of CHESS

One of the continuing initiatives CHESS has focused on over the last year is to engage ex-students via social media presence. This continues to be important, to ensure that CHESS remains visible to all ex-students, and will be expanded in the year ahead. There are plans to rejuvenate the CHESS website during 2025.

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

I want to thank the dedication and hard work of the committee members for their commitment to CHESS. In 2024, we welcomed a new committee member, Melissa Ngau (class of 1999). Moving forward, I have decided to step down as CHESS president but will remain an active committee member. The new committee roles will be decided following the new nominations received at the AGM, to be held in May. We are pleased with what has been achieved over the last few years, especially overseeing the stronger link with the school and the agreement that CHESS can hold events on school grounds and buildings. This will help maintain the interest of CHESS members, with enthusiastic feedback from members, and a keen interest for continuing events to be held on school grounds.

Finally, I want to thank the members who continue to maintain financial membership, as without this, we cannot provide the awards and donations to the school.

Theo Mantamadiotis (Class of 1980) CHESS President, with Rory Hughes (Secretary), John Stamellos (Treasurer), Graeme Cameron (committee member), Melissa Ngau (committee member)