

## EXCEL News October & November 2019

### Tournament of Minds (TOM) International Final – Hobart

Our hearty congratulations go to the talented Year 8-10 EXCEL students, who visited Hobart (with Mr Turbill and Mrs Lyons) from 24-27 October to represent GGHS and South Australia so well in the Arts Challenge at the TOM International Final: Skye (Y10), Tia, Grace and Abbey (Y9), Sage, Liam and Connor (Y8). They created and performed a very funny play about visiting another planet to select an artwork to bring back to Earth's Interplanetary Art Gallery. It was enhanced by Sage's spinning satellite-dish-hat, Liam's clever one-liners, Tia's authoritative command of the TRS (Totally Real Spaceship), Connor's panpipe-playing to appease the aliens, Grace's song sung in an alien language, Abbey's weirdly-wonderful alien dance, and Skye's 'Hand Clasp for Hope' sculpture. GGHS was the only secondary school to receive 'Spirit of TOM' Medals for performing exceptionally well and overcoming all obstacles they faced. We thank Skye for her superb leadership of this team, our generous sponsors for making this trip possible and Mr Turbill for accompanying us.



Our Tournament of Minds International Team, above, below and right.







Jayden, pictured above, with Golden Grove Lions Club representative Gerry van Neikerk and Blair Boyer, Member for Wright.

### **Lions Youth of the Year – District Final, Kadina**

Congratulations to our Year 11 EXCEL student, Jayden, who represented GGHS and Golden Grove Lions Club at the Lions Youth of the Year District Final at Kadina on Saturday 9 November. Jayden took part in a 40-minute interview to assess his school based initiatives, extra-curricular activities, general knowledge and presentation. Then he gave a prepared speech on “Modern Feminism”. Finally, candidates had to present two impromptu speeches, which really challenged students to think on their feet, as they had to speak without any preparation time at all. Their topics were: “In the past 30 years road fatalities have been increasing, even with better cars, technology and police surveillance. Why is this?” and “Australia is currently looking at three different sites for nuclear waste disposal. How should the government deal with the emotive response to choosing a site?”

Jayden was one of three candidates who have been selected to advance to the Lions Youth of the Year State Final in April 2020. Congratulations, Jayden!

### **Middle School Ethics Olympiad**

Congratulations to our Year 8/9 EXCEL students, who have been selected to represent GGHS at Adelaide’s first-ever Middle School Ethics Olympiad at Loreto College on Tuesday 19 November: Abbey, Alexandra, Amber, Brock, Claudia, Connor, Kieley, Lauren, Sage and Sophie. They meet three lunchtimes a week to develop their ethical understanding, by considering these questions:

- Should we ever not use nature for our benefit?
- Is lying ever justified?
- What are the minimum rights of a pet dog?
- How should we choose the organisations to which we donate money?
- What are the rules of friendship when you both ‘like’ the same person?
- How should we handle pressure to party?
- Should parents use apps to locate/‘spy on’ you?
- What constitutes stealing in your own workplace?

### **Philosothon**

Congratulations to our budding Year 8-11 philosophers, who performed so well in the Philosothon at Prince Alfred College on 29 October: Brock St Clair (Year 8), Sophie Colsey (Year 9), Blake Tubb (Year 10), Angus Phillis (Year 11). Our team was judged Top School for Creative Thinking out of the 17 schools, and they came in 6th Place overall. Sophie Colsey excelled, winning the Second Place Medal (Year 9).

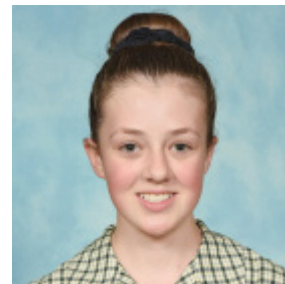


Blake, Angus, Brock and Sophie, above, our Year 8-11 Philosothon participants.

### **Girls in Parliament**

*“Women make up the majority of the population, yet in Australia just 28.3% of our House of Representatives and 38.7% of our Senate is female. Having parliamentarians who more accurately reflect the population is critical in a representative democracy.”* In the light of this, our congratulations go to:

- Year 9 EXCEL students, Keira and Kieley, who both won scholarships to attend the 3-day residential YMCA Junior Parliament program in the October Holidays
- Year 8 interschool debaters, Emily and Mia, who were paired with politicians in the 3-day SA Girls Takeover Parliament program from 5-7 November.



Sue Lyons  
EXCEL Extension Learning Leader