THE WAY

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EXCURSION TO THE ART GALLERY OF NSW

On Tuesday 11th June, our entire Year 7 Visual Arts cohort hit the city for an exciting day at the Art Gallery of NSW to explore the iconic Archibald Prize Portraiture Exhibition, along with the Sulman and Wynne Prize competitions. This awesome outing tied perfectly into their Portraiture Unit from Terms 1 and 2, turning classroom theory into a real-life, visual adventure!

Guided by our amazing Year 11 Visual Arts students (who were total stars), the younger students had the chance to dive deeper into the artworks on display. With help from their older peers and teachers, they unpacked painting techniques, discovered hidden symbolism, and developed a greater appreciation for the stories behind each canvas. The Year 11s were incredibly helpful and inspiring—true art ambassadors!

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After exploring the galleries and enjoying some lunch, students took time to sketch the gallery's beautiful architecture and relax in the surrounding gardens.

All the students voted for their favourite portrait. The clear winner was Kelly Maree's vibrant Jackie O, with works by David Fairbairn and Abdul Abdullah also stealing the spotlight.

To top it all off, a Channel 7 News crew happened to be filming at the gallery, and our students made a surprise appearance in the background during interviews with some of the featured artists! (Yes, we've got the link—go spot a familiar face!) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiFcP1uR2qs

While Year 7 headed back to school, the Year 11s stayed behind with myself, for an extended tour. They delved deeper into the International Modernist collection and Australian artworks—and had a special moment meeting finalist artist Mostafa Azimitabar. In an inspiring and spontaneous talk about his moving portrait The Definition of Hope (featuring Grace Tame who is a long distant runner), he encouraged our students to be bold, stay resilient, and always express their unique ideas through the visual arts.

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After a packed day of learning, laughter, and creative inspiration, the senior students returned to college around 6pm—tired but absolutely buzzing!

With nearly 180 students on the excursion, it was an unforgettable experience. For many, it was their very first time at a major gallery of such a prestigious standard.

A massive thank you to our brilliant staff and the exceptional Year 11 leaders who made this day so memorable for all involved!

Mrs Genelle Griffin
Visual Arts Coordinator

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