**Year 11 CAS Reflection:**

**Creativity**

**John Waterhouse Society**

The John Waterhouse Society has been really interesting to be a part of in these two terms. The topic that we explored was really interesting and I found I learnt some things both related to the philosophy course and theories that extended the course that we cover in class. I did feel like I was able to develop my research and presenting skills, because I thought we were able to identify areas of interest and investigate them in depth, as well as bring that point across to other boys. The talk on migration also was of particular interest to me and raised some issues of global significance that I had otherwise not been aware of. It was an incredibly interesting discussion and opened my eyes to the true depth of the problem we face.

Since we presented in the first semester, as did a few other groups, in semester 2 we will be listening to the other groups present as well as the presentations from the guest speakers, which I’m really looking forward to.

**New Enigma**

After a slow start with New Enigma in the beginning of semester 1, we’ve now been able to get a good start on getting in boys works to edit and review. We’ve also decided that the publication will have a focus on translated works as well as the standard short stories or poems. I felt that this whole process has developed my creative abilities and improved my skills in this regard. As I mentioned in the experiences details, creativity is not one of my strong suits, so it’s really good to be able to improve on them. It was also a good experience being able to develop our own visions for the New Enigma this year, placing a larger focus on translated works than in previous years.

In semester 2, we’ll need to bring in more works from the boys in both the senior school and wyvern and finalise all their drafts. This will be quite a lengthy process, but one which I’m sure we’ll be able to get done. After that, we’ll then work with Newington’s design team to design the publication how we envisaged it.

**House Chapel Skit**

This experience was a very quick one that is only took place in semester 1, but I feel like like it’s been a very beneficial process. In my film last year, I wrote the script, and so I felt more confident in developing some sort of storyline for the skit, but actually directing and organising the boys was going to be a challenge. In doing the activity, I felt that I was able to improve on these two skills, as we were able to organise 15 year 8 boys to act in a video in just a few filming sessions. I also ended up editing the video, so I developed my creative skills further by taking on that role, which I did not expect to.

There will be no further commitment or reflection for this experience as it was short and only took place in semester 1.

**Action**

**Cricket**

This season’s cricket experience was one of the best I’ve ever had in my 8 seasons of cricket. We ended up winning a co-premiership on the very last day, with just two wickets being the difference between winning and losing that premiership. But I don’t think the season should just be defined by how successful we were in terms of our win loss ratio. It was great to win the premiership, and something that I’ll remember for a long time, but I certainly took more out of the season than just that. I felt as though I was able to improve different aspects of my batting that I’d wanted to, but there are still plenty of deficiencies that need to be worked on next season. In terms of my bowling, it would’ve been nice to bowl a few more overs, but a mix of back problems and already having enough leg spinners in the team meant that I was there for my batting and slips fielding, but does give me something to work on next year.

The next time I’ll be reflecting on cricket is in my year 12 CAS reflection, which is when the season starts again, after athletics.

**Football**

The football season began quite early this year, overlapping at points with the cricket season, which became difficult to balance at some points. By this point (end of term 2), a senior squad has been selected and we’ve played a few games in the GPS competition already. It was great to achieve my goal of playing in an open’s team, playing the GPS games in the 2nd XI, all of which we’ve fortunately been able to win. I feel that my fitness has developed as has my heading, but my left foot is still as dodgy as ever, which gives me something to work on before next term.

I’ll reflect again on football in the year 12 CAS reflection, in preparation for the new season.

**Athletics**

Athletics was an enjoyable part of my CAS this year although the final AAGPS carnival was a bit disappointing from a personal point of view, where I was over a metre from my personal best. It gives me something to improve on come next year’s athletics season, where I hope to set a personal best on the actual carnival, and if I can do that, then it’ll be a success.

**Service**

**HOOSH**

I was slightly uncomfortable the very first afternoon I volunteered at HOOSH, not knowing anyone there, or the names of any of the kids, but after a while, that quickly went away. I felt that I was quickly able to connect with a lot of the kids their, and that they enjoyed the time that I spent with them. Being a student volunteer, the most difficult part is making sure that you create the right balance between making sure HOOSH’s rules are abided by as well as making sure the kids still have fun. I also feel like I’ve been able to develop my communication with younger kids. The first time I was there, I didn’t really know what they liked or talked about, but after a while I got used to talking with them and making sure they stayed interested in the conversation by making sure I talked about something they enjoyed or did themselves.

I’ll be reflecting on this activity in my next reflection as it is an experience I’ll be carrying out into 2017.

**ANZAC Day**

Volunteering on ANZAC day was a great experience for me and something that I felt I got a lot out of. Being in the catafalque party made me appreciate just how difficult it is sometimes to co-ordinate movements with other boys in perfect sync and gave me an understanding of just how important working as a team is. Considering it was something I’d never really done before, I think it went quite smoothly, with no major errors. Operation Rosemary was equally as rewarding and gave me an appreciation of the true scope of ANZAC day as well as a comprehension of the amount of people who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Walking around the city on ANZAC Day was quite an interesting experience, with the basically all of the city streets closed for the parade and the day as a whole, which gave an indication of the true scope of the day. It was also quite humbling to hear many of the stories that people told us as we were handing out rosemaries, and just how much people had sacrificed fighting for the cause they believed in.

The next time I’ll be reflecting on volunteering during ANZAC day is in my year 12 CAS reflection, after the parade in 2017.

**Red Centre Immersion Tour**

The Red Centre Immersion Tour was one of the most enjoyable, but eye-opening trips I’ve ever been on. The trip gave me an appreciation to just how ignorant I was to so many things that were going on in the country that I live in. The amount of discrimination that Aboriginal people faced and still do was so shocking to me, particularly when we talk about how Australia is so diverse and accepting, but we don’t even show respect to the people who are the true owners of the country we live in. I’m sure I’ll remember for years to come the talk we got as a group from Vince (the cousin of Jonny, one of the tour guides) sitting in one of the rock overhangs at Uluru. The setting was incredible and set up Vince’s speech perfectly, as he educated us on some of the Aboriginal stories as well as the harsh reality of life as an Aboriginal living in a rural town in the Northern Territory. It was an experience that I’ll never forget, and the talk, just like the whole trip, was an incredibly worthwhile experience.

I won’t get another chance to reflect on the trip as it was a one off tour, but was a week that we learnt as much as a lot of people would in a year.