Humanities and Social Science Week

This week the School celebrated Humanities and Social Science Week. The format for the week is a series of activities and master classes by professional experts in various fields.

Rhodes Scholar and PC Old Girl, Freya Shearer, spoke to a class of Year 11 Geography students about the research she is currently undertaking at Oxford University, which involves mapping certain strains of malaria in parts of South-east Asia. This research is vital in assisting with better allocation and distribution of resources to those who are most vulnerable and at risk of contracting this tropical disease.

Year 12 Economics students had a briefing on the state of the Australian and global economies from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s James Hammond. Of particular interest was the impact on the WA economy of the turmoil in Chinese financial markets and the future trend of the Australian dollar if commodity prices continue their tumble.

Accounting students were briefed on career opportunities and the corporate work of professional accountants by Chartered Accountants ANZ, while History students attended a fascinating talk by Hetty Verolme, who is a Holocaust survivor. Her account of life in Nazi Germany and what she experienced as a victim of Hitler’s ‘Final Solution’ was quite an incredible story to hear.

Year 9 students attended a talk by Nick Steele from the WA Police Service, and he provided the perspective of front-line policing particularly in relation to young people and their interaction with the criminal justice system.

Year 8 students participated in an ‘Amazing Race’ around the school campus designed to develop their geographical skills, and Year 7 students took part in a ‘Geoguessr’ competition in which they used geographical clues to pinpoint the location of various Google street view scenes from around the world.

The highlight of the week was the visit by US Consul General, Cynthia Griffin, and her speech at the School assembly on Wednesday. Her speech covered a range of topics including her career path and experiences around the world as a career diplomat, and the special role of educated girls/women in driving positive change around the world.

I am sure many students this week have enjoyed the extra educational enrichment that has come from the activities. They have been challenged to think deeply about the world and their place in it.

Steve Wynhorst
Head of Humanities and Social Science