

Copperfield College

Alumni News

Empowering every student to aspire and achieve



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Copperfield
COLLEGE
Alumni

KINGS PARK • DELAHEY • SYDENHAM

Welcome.

Celebrating and connecting past students

With a rich network spanning various industries and professions, the Alumni program aims to support our current students by leveraging the experiences, knowledge, and success stories of those who have come before them

Welcome to the first edition of Alumni News at Copperfield College, highlighting the program's work and achievements to share with the wider community and networks.

Edition #1 - 2025



Todd Truong (class of 2023) recently spoke at the Year 10 Pathways Evening

The Alumni Program is more than just a database of past students; it's a living, breathing network of experiences, achievements, and memories.

The program aims to reconnect former classmates, celebrate milestones, and open doors for current students through classroom talks, events and mentorship.

Whether you're a graduate of 1985 or 2005, your journey and insights matter. Joining the Alumni program means joining a legacy of lifelong learning and community at Copperfield College.

"The Alumni program provides a picture into how students can lead change and become entrepreneurs with significant contributions to the community."

Dr. Mandy El Ali, class of 1993

Supported by Ourschool

Helping state secondary schools build thriving alumni communities

Ourschool is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping public high schools build strong, supportive alumni networks that inspire and benefit current students.

Copperfield College is partnering with Ourschool to help grow and strengthen the Alumni program.



Inspiring the next generation of Copperfield students

There are many different ways to get involved in the Alumni program.

Whether it's through social media, school events, newsletters, or other channels, we're creating a space for Alumni to stay involved, share their achievements, and give back to the community.

As Alumni, your stories and insights help light the way for the next generation of students exploring what their future could look like.

Your story could be the motivation someone needs to pursue their dreams.

Ryan Merlo (2022) & Chantelle Suntovski (2022) recently spoke at the Year 9 Pathways Evening



Alumni event highlights

TERM 1



Declan Burt (DUX 2024) - Physics



John Vargas (1999) - Economics

TERM 2



Chris Vassiliadis (2021) - Legal Studies



Lauren House (1999) - VET Cookery

Joseph Alkarra

**Engineer. Dux.
Valedictorian. Inspiring
role model.**

After leaving Syria during the civil war, Joseph arrived in Melbourne with his family, and commenced at Copperfield College's Sydenham campus for his Year 10 studies.

Despite arriving with limited English, Joseph persevered through challenges with remarkable determination, a deep passion for learning, and an unshakeable work ethic – ultimately achieving outstanding academic success.

In his Valedictory speech, Joseph credited a pivotal mentor in his highschool mathematics teacher, Olga Polovic-Lazovic, who reminded him that mathematics is a universal language.

Returning last term to speak to Ms. Polovic-Lazovic's Year 11 Math Methods and a General Math class, Joseph shared his personal story of discovering a lifelong passion for engineering as a teenager, and a steadfast approach to living life to the fullest.



***“It was a real pleasure to visit
and support where I could.
Returning to Copperfield and
having the chance to engage with
some of the students was a very
rewarding experience.”***

Joseph Alkarra

***Joseph Alkarra visits Ms. Polovic-Lazovic'
Year 11 Math Methods class***



“It's exciting to be part of such a community, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back.”

Joseph Alkarra

After graduating in 2018, Joseph studied a Bachelor of Science/Engineering, followed by a Master of Mechatronics, at the University of Melbourne.

Now working as a Data Analyst, Joseph continues to explore his passion for engineering and discovering its many different facets, including robotics, civil

engineering and aerospace engineering.

He shared with students that engineering is three things: scientific, creative and practical, leaving them with one of his favourite quotes on the subject: "One man's magic is another man's engineering. Supernatural is a null word." (Robert A. Heinlein)



Copperfield College sincerely thanks Joseph for his generous visit and meaningful contributions to the school community. It was a distinct privilege to welcome him once again.

Alumni Spotlights

What are they up to now?



Sammie Duong

After graduating in 2014, Sammie completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and a Bachelor of Business in International Business at RMIT University.

Deepening their global perspective, Sammie also studied Cultural Studies at RMIT University Vietnam, and Chinese Language and Literature at Beijing Language and Culture University.

As a student at Copperfield, Sammie enjoyed Physics with Mr Dale Moore, engaging in SRC with Ms Thao Pham and student leadership with Ms Soula Dedes.

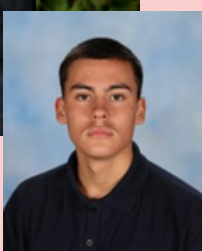


Juan Arevalo

From smashing goals on the interschool sports field to closing deals in the real estate market, Juan has always brought passion and determination to everything he does.

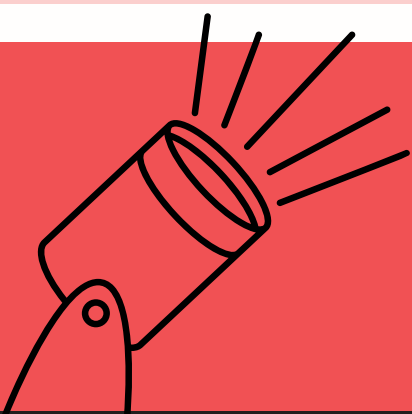
As a student at Copperfield College, Juan particularly loved P.E and Maths. After leaving Copperfield in 2021, he pursued a certificate in Real Estate, turning his love for strategy and hard work into a thriving career.

Now as a Real Estate Agent at Ray White West Realty, Juan lives by his favourite quote: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."



Do you have a story to tell?

Whether you've reached career milestones, started your own business, or simply want to share what you've been up to, email [**alumni@copperfieldcollege.vic.edu.au**](mailto:alumni@copperfieldcollege.vic.edu.au)



Alumni Spotlights

What are they up to now?



Christina Do

Since graduating in 2017, Christina has completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Science and Health Science (Honours) at RMIT University, and a Doctor of Physiotherapy at the University of Melbourne.

Christina currently works as a physiotherapist specialising in neurological and geriatric care, and is collaborating with Sunshine Hospital to develop a thesis aimed at helping infants with obstructive breathing disorders.

During her years at Copperfield College, Christina enjoyed English and Math, leadership opportunities and Student Representative Council (SRC) events.

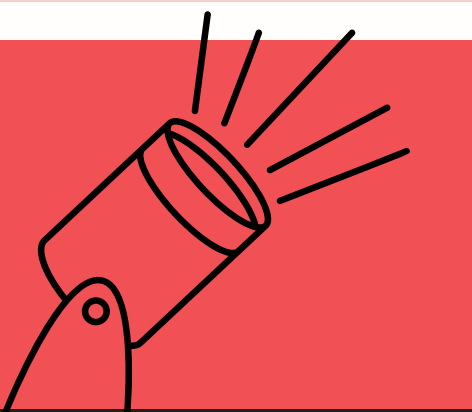


Behzat Yargi

Since graduating in 2001, Behzat has had a remarkable professional journey, which has taken him from Melbourne to the heart of the global financial world in London.

After graduating from a Bachelor of Business (Accountancy) degree at RMIT University, Behzat qualified as a Chartered Accountant, and eventually made the bold move to London. Today, Behzat plays a leading role in the Lloyd's of London insurance market.

From his early days at Copperfield College to his achievements across banking and insurance in London, Behzat's journey is a testament to where ambition, hard work and courage can lead.



Do you have a story to tell?

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From Kings Park to Copperfield College

Before we were Copperfield College, we were Kings Park — home to a whole lot of red and gold pride.

From the transformation into Copperfield College and the sleek new uniforms that swapped out bright yellow for contemporary red and navy, our school's journey has mirrored the growth of our community.

Whether you started at Kings Park or joined during the Copperfield era, the memories are there to share.



If you have memorable stories or vintage photos to share with other Alumni, email [**alumni@copperfieldcollege.vic.edu.au**](mailto:alumni@copperfieldcollege.vic.edu.au)

Celebrating over 25 years of transformation

This year marked 26 years since the Middle Schools program was introduced at Kings Park Secondary College, a pivotal change that saw Year 10s transition to the senior campus.

Copperfield College has been on an incredible journey of growth and innovation, always striving to improve student experiences — helping students take their next big step towards independence and success.

“As an alumnus myself, it makes me proud to be part of the success stories of Copperfield College.”

Dr. Mandy El Ali, class of 1993



Contact

Email the Alumni Program Coordinator at:
[**alumni@copperfieldcollege.vic.edu.au**](mailto:alumni@copperfieldcollege.vic.edu.au)

Follow the Alumni program on social media:
[Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)

Copperfield College is proudly supported by our community partners ABCN, Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia, Western Chances & WPC Group.

The Alumni program is supported by Ourschool, a not-for-profit initiative that helps schools like ours build thriving Alumni communities.