Western Heights College is continuing to develop a whole college approach to the development and maintenance of a safe and supportive learning environment where all people are respected. Our aim is for all students to continue to develop as young people who are confident, collaborative and contributing 21st century citizens. All teachers explicitly teach behaviour just as we teach other curriculum areas; literacy and numeracy, believing that all of our students will be successful.

The college is using the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support model which is a framework for promoting positive learning behaviours in addition to clearly defining and teaching our students expected behaviours. It was through this framework that the SOAR (Safety, Organisation, Achievement and Respect) matrix of expectations was developed by our students and staff at the end of last year. This is printed in the Student Planner in the first few pages for your reference. The School Wide Positive Behaviour Support model has been adopted by the college as it:
- Provides consistent and positive ways for adults to respond to student behaviour
- Changes the focus from what students should not do to what they should do
- Makes sure that students learn and practice positive behaviours
- Clarifies the expectation for appropriate behaviour for a variety of school situations
- Provides a method for measuring, monitoring and evaluating progress
- Makes sure that positive, cooperative behaviour gets the most attention.

Our newly developed ‘Positive Behaviours Approach’ strategies are being implemented in Year 8 this term, with implementation across the college in all Learning Communities occurring in 2014. Year 8 students and teachers have been involved in the development and the refinement of the Positive Behaviours Approach. The approach outlines the importance of a positive disposition, positive language and the benefits of praise. The importance of positive language and its effect has been a significant component of the approach and has made teachers very conscious of the words and expressions they use. Research indicates that the ratio of positive comments to negative comments of 6:1 will encourage desired behaviour and develop a sense of achievement. This is built into our strategies. The focus is on recognising and rewarding positive and expected learning behaviours as well as clearly defining the expected levels of behaviour are at Western Heights College.

The approach includes a reminder and relocation strategy, where students are reminded of the teachers expectations in terms of SOAR and if required, may be relocated to be with another teacher until a restorative conversation can take place. The conversation is aimed at identifying the problems that have occurred and together, between the student and teacher finding a solution that is agreed to. This part of the process provides students the time to reflect on their behaviour and learn how to find solutions and solve problems in a mature and responsible manner.

During the term we have sought feedback from students and teachers alike to refine the approach. The feedback from the college community has overwhelmingly reinforced the benefits of the ‘Positive Behaviours
Approach’ and we look forward to implementing this for all Learning Communities next year.

The course selection process, for students currently in Years 8-11 is completed after many weeks of counselling with students and their parents involved. The 2014 timetable is produced from students’ choices. This year, a new process of Course Confirmation has been included, where students have a confirmed course and detail of the associated fees and resources that this will incur. The course confirmation for 2014 Year 9 and 2014 Year 10 students was done through short meetings between the student, their parents and their mentors, where the students selections and aspirations were discussed. Most students attended the meetings with extremely positive feedback from the families, appreciating this information well in advance of the 2014 school year.

We are half way through term 4 and planning is well underway for 2014. It is less than 6 weeks to the end of the school year and Christmas! Please be aware of specific information and dates which are being communicated to students about the compulsory transition programs towards the end of the year. This is where all of our students get a flying start into 2014.

Ms Anderson
Middle Years Campus Principal

2014 Student Leaders

2014 YEAR 12 STUDENT LEADERS INDUCTION DAY
On Wednesday 13 November the newly confirmed 2014 Year 12 Student Leaders attended a full day of induction at Skilled Stadium. Students participated in a number of workshops aimed at challenging and strengthening their views about leadership and how they see themselves as leaders.

Our students were privileged to listen to Hamlyn Banks Primary School Principal, Mr Daniel Vella who delivered a very powerful message of the importance of leaders working with their people, or in his words “reading the play”.

The day’s Keynote address was delivered by Mariah Kennedy, a local Year 11 student. Mariah is a UNICEF Youth Ambassador with a passion for mobilising resources to make a positive difference on global social issues such as eradicating poverty. Our students were inspired by the stories of her life experiences, with one commenting to me “I can’t believe she is our age”. Mariah has written a book and has kindly donated a copy for our Library.

Our students left the day feeling energised with plans in place regarding projects or areas of college life they would like to influence next year. I was immensely proud of each of our leaders and felt similarly energised at the prospect of working with them again next year.

The composition of the Year 12 Leadership team is outlined below.

2014 COLLEGE CAPTAINS
Magan Turner & Joshua Trevethan

BARTON HOUSE
House Captain  Scott Webber
Sports Captain  Emily Worpel
Arts/Community Captain  Leah O’Brien

MINERVA HOUSE
House Captain  Molly Stones
Sports Captain  Michael Hillbrick
Arts/Community Captain  Maddie Eccles

QUAMBY HOUSE
House Captain  Luke Hatton
Sports Captain  Chelsea Cations
Arts/Community Captain  Cameron Pleissnitzer

VINES HOUSE
House Captain  Melika Arnott
Sports Captain  Stephanie Anderson
Arts/Community Captain  Jack Herd

Special thanks is extended to Ms Hammond and Mr. Marcus Allport for their assistance in the day.

Mr Temelkovski
Quamby Campus Principal
**Year 7**

**CADETS /REMEMBRANCE DAY**
This Friday we are holding a Remembrance Day ceremony during a whole college assembly. I am proud of the fact that we will have three of our year 7 students involved representing the armed forces as cadets. Congratulations to Nic Parry, Sam Murphy and Will Homan for having the courage and confidence to be involved.

I have asked Nic and Sam to write a quick report about being in the cadets. Here is their report:

It’s so fun to be in the Australian Army Cadets because you get to go on camps such as Puckapunyal for 5 days, and learn drill discipline. It’s a big responsibility to remember all the drill movements and to show respect to all the cadets. When Sam and I joined, we thought it would be scary but after a few weeks it was so much fun. We got our uniforms pretty early in our cadet career. With your uniform it is a huge responsibility to keep your collar flat, no creases in your uniform and your blousing done which means your pants tied to your boots to stop bugs from crawling up your legs.

Nic went to Puckapunyal and he had to sleep in a hutchie. A hutchie is a small tent ‘thing’ that can just fit three people in it. We have to do a Remembrance Service. We are very nervous but hopefully it goes well. If you want to join it cost 50 dollars it is on Mondays at 7:00 to 9:30 hope you will join.

**Nic and Sam - Year 7 students**

Many families attended our 2014 - Year 8 Information Session on Wednesday evening where Curriculum Handbooks, Resource Lists and other documents to be returned to the college were distributed. Mentor teachers will be phoning families who were unable to attend to notify them of when students will be bringing this information package home.

Mr Sachse  
Year 7 Community Leader

---

**Year 9**

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh students are busy getting ready for their end of year hike. Students spent the day on Wednesday 6th November out at Anglesea canoeing. This gave them the opportunity to learn some skills leading into the camp. The year 9 Duke class have also spent time cooking on trangia, setting their equipment and have received their pack to get ready for the trip away. Students have been training for the Run Geelong that is taking place on Sunday 17th. This has involved the duke students running 3km every week. Students are looking forward to their time away and we hope that they enjoy themselves.

Well done to all current Year 8 staff and students for the wonderful showcase of Year 8 curriculum to our 2014 Year 8 students and their families.

---

**COLLEGE ABSENCE LINE**

If your student is going to be absent please phone the College absence line.

5277 9793
All Year 10 students will be sitting end of semester exams from the 25th of November. This is a very important time and all students are being urged to make the most of the study notes and opportunities provided to them in class over the coming days. Please check in with your child and assist them in maximising their home study routine in preparation for the exam period. All students will have the opportunity to sit with their class teacher and receive exam feedback prior to beginning their 2014 transition program. The benefits of testing your child’s knowledge in the exam period include:

- Retrieval aids later retention
- Identifying gaps in knowledge
- Produces better organisation of knowledge
- Improves the transfer of knowledge to new contexts
- Provides feedback to students on achievement

To assist your child, Griffith University have an excellent resource called Study Smart.

http://app.griffith.edu.au/study-smart/docs/exams

Here you will find a great video with strategies for being well prepared for exams as well as links to documents which can assist you with exam preparation, exam time tips as well as ways to familiarise yourself with an exam. I urge you to take the time to look at this resource with your child.

We are also moving towards our end of year celebration – the Formal. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to celebrate with staff their achievements for the year. It is also a time to reflect on how far they have come in their journey as WHC students prior to commencing their final years with us. Tickets are on sale at the Quamby General Office until November 22nd. They are $60 each and include a sit down meal, entertainment and security. It is essential that students intending to attend the Formal purchase their tickets as soon as possible.

Ms Montano
Year 10 Community Leader

As I mentioned in the last newsletter next week (18th-22nd November) is the exam week for Unit 2 subjects. It is important to remember that any Year 11 VCE unit has an exam and these exams will be run under the same rules as Year 12 exams. Exams are compulsory. If you are aware of any problems, please contact the school.

- As students enter the exam week, it is not unusual for stress levels to rise. I have listed a number of tips below that can help students get maximum efficiency before and during an exam.
- Don’t Cram – we have been working through a three week revision timetable in advisory classes. The majority of teachers have given students revision questions to complete – this is the best short term revision technique.
- Eat Well – Good nutrition helps students maintain focus for longer. Eating breakfast before an exam will help students maintain focus and be more efficient during exams.
- Watch Caffeine Intake – nothing drives up exam stress more than not being able to sleep the night before – this includes high energy sports drinks.
- Prepare to be prepared – before going to bed the night before, make sure you gather together everything that you will need for the exam – pens, rulers, eraser, calculator (including batteries), Water bottle, formula book etc.
- ZZZZZZZ – Staying up late the night before an exam is the worst thing you can do – you reach a point where your productivity eventually declines, so sleep is a must!

During exams:

- Read the question twice before you attempt it - make sure you know what the question is asking you!
- Start strategically – use your reading time to read all of the questions and identify the questions you know you CAN DO – don’t focus and dwell on the tough questions – you will have time to do them at the end. You will kick yourself if you miss out on a question that you can do because you ran out of time.
- CHECK your answers – don’t lose marks for things you can do; like missing out on units, significant figures – or worse, not answering what the examiner wants.
- Take deep breathes if you start to stress – breathe in for 4 out for 4 – this will calm your nerves and get oxygen to your brain.
Finally, as the Year 11 LCL, can I congratulate all of the students who applied for school leadership positions. The number of applicants truly impressed me and the speeches of the 5 students short listed for College Captain positions enhanced the belief I have that we have exceptional young adults in our college.

Mr Bullock
Year 11 Community Leader

EXAMINATIONS
We are coming to the end of the V.C.E. examination period and it has been pleasing to see students at school continuing to access their teachers for support and further advice. The chief supervisor of our Examinations Centre has been very complimentary about the application our students have shown while sitting these examinations. As this bulletin is being posted, we are entering the last week of the examination period, which culminates with French on Tuesday the 19th of November and VET Engineering on Wednesday the 20th of November.

This final date is also the day of Year 12 Graduation. Every year this is an event that is highly anticipated by students, parents and teachers as it truly marks the completion of VCE. We look forward to seeing you there and to join you in celebrating the achievements of your son or daughter in 2013.

In the previous bulletin, the students who had their work displayed in the VCE Art Exhibition Friday the 18th of October were acknowledged. I would like to take the opportunity in this bulletin to present a visual retrospective of the final day of Year 12 (Celebration Day) on Tuesday the 22nd of October.

CELEBRATION DAY
Students arrived in a variety of interesting costumes and commenced the day, by having their photographs taken professionally both individually and in groups by student Leigh Vivian, who was assisted by Ms Hergstrom, Ms Hurley and Mr Smith (who all took additional photographs across the morning) These photographs can be accessed by students by contacting Ms Hergstrom for location details.

The next activity (and now a long running Western Heights tradition) was the Staff versus Student debate where the topic ‘Teachers have no imagination’ was hotly discussed. In a nail-biting result the student team of Lachlan Blain, Jeremy Robinson and Tyler Keane defeated Mr Bullock (best speaker award), Mr Temelkovski and Ms Montano. The day culminated with a series of Student Activities, Costume and Student Awards and a Media Presentation.

The Three Anawatis
(Incidentally, the caption in Arabic reads ‘Top Teachers’)

The Year 12 Learning Community Team would like to thank the entire Year 12 cohort for their good humour and exemplary behaviour on the day as well as the Student Leadership team and the large number of staff who organised the day and made it such a success.

Mr Atherton
Year 12 Community Leaders
**Learning and Teaching**

In 2014 all students in Years 7 - 10 will use a Writer’s Notebook. This is not an entirely new process at Western Heights College and many of you will recall your children talking about them in Student-Led Conferences. Next year, though, this process will be a consistent practice.

**What is a Writer’s Notebook?**

While it is tempting to describe the Writer’s Notebook as a journal, it is in fact much more than a receptacle for quiet, contemplative writing. Many successful authors use their notebooks as ‘seed banks’ or ‘batteries of ideas’. In this instance all manner of things qualify as entries. They can include snippets of overheard conversations which may evolve into authentic sounding dialogue in a future story or perhaps a cinema ticket, lolly wrapper, photo, leaf, etc may be pasted in to jog a memory for another future writing task. This layer of life experience may never be used or may create the best story, song, poem, essay or speech ever!

With a collection of ideas the notebook is now ready to become a place of the imagination. Imagination grows with use. People with charged imaginations are problem solvers, persuasive, informed, empathetic and creative. Now that the creative juices are flowing we mustn’t forget that good writing needs to be comprehensible. The Writer’s Notebook is a place for students to hone the language conventions they have learned in explicit instruction sessions and conferences.

Finally the Writer’s Notebook is an anthology of each student’s writing; a forum to demonstrate learning as entries. They can include snippets of overheard conversations which may evolve into authentic sounding dialogue in a future story or perhaps a cinema ticket, lolly wrapper, photo, leaf, etc may be pasted in to jog a memory for another future writing task. This layer of life experience may never be used or may create the best story, song, poem, essay or speech ever!

With a collection of ideas the notebook is now ready to become a place of the imagination. Imagination grows with use. People with charged imaginations are problem solvers, persuasive, informed, empathetic and creative. Now that the creative juices are flowing we mustn’t forget that good writing needs to be comprehensible. The Writer’s Notebook is a place for students to hone the language conventions they have learned in explicit instruction sessions and conferences.

Finally the Writer’s Notebook is an anthology of each student’s writing; a forum to demonstrate learning as entries. They can include snippets of overheard conversations which may evolve into authentic sounding dialogue in a future story or perhaps a cinema ticket, lolly wrapper, photo, leaf, etc may be pasted in to jog a memory for another future writing task. This layer of life experience may never be used or may create the best story, song, poem, essay or speech ever!

**Ms Tyzack**

Learning and Teaching Leader

---

**A DISH A DAY, THE QUAMBY WAY**

The Year 11 students have been working on a cookbook as part of their assessment for Semester 2. Parents wanting to order a copy of this book can do so from the Quamby Office for $25.

Fran Smith

Food Technology Teacher

---

**eLearning News**

Principles of eLearning Draft

In 2014 our MyLe Program extended to half of the college. We are currently refining our College Principles of eLearning. This will enable us to be even clearer about how and why we use information technologies to improve outcomes for all our learners. This document is still being revised and improved, and we would be very interested to hear your thought and suggestions. Please email your input to:-
western.heights.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

1. **Technology is for learning** - Our purpose for using technology is to achieve our learning goals. We do this while learning, creating and sharing in ways that we couldn’t do as well without this technology. eLearning allows self-paced, life-long, and personalised learning.

2. **E-Learning is deep learning** - e-Learning is about creating robust and deep learning, not superficial and pretty work without substance. It doesn’t mean dumbing down; it means getting students engaged and involved. e-Learning is essential to effective, contemporary learning.

3. **101 ways to skin an e-cat, or catering to the individual e-learner** - Allow individual learners to use different approaches and software, and through these choices we allow for different self-expression, greater engagement in the learning process, and better ownership of learning outcomes.

4. **Substitution is the smallest step** - This is when we substitute or exchange a paper-based task for the same task on a screen. This is a step in the right direction, but it is only the first step towards more powerful ways of learning. Learning tasks should be well planned, capture learners at multiple entry points of engagement, and give the learner the opportunity to create.

5. **Online research skills are not self-evident** Learners need structures and guidance. As educators we guide our students to relevant and meaningful online resources.

6. **e-learning for connection** - Effective e-learning allows communication and collaboration between students, parents, and teachers. This enables timely and relevant feedback and anytime, anywhere learning.

7. **Marking up for learning not just marking for assessment** - Texts, images, and films can be pulled apart, labelled and explained. Annotation by the learner and teacher is a powerful tool for ongoing learning. Everything can be marked up to show deeper or different thinking. For example, tagging, metadata, or commentary.

8. **Using technology well is a skillset** - Using technologies responsibly and well is a skill that is required by employers and will sometimes need to be explicitly learned. These skills include file management, specialist software, hardware, and managing privacy.
9. Publishing is powerful - Publishing to the world, not just the teacher, is more engaging and rewarding, and it enhances opportunities to be creative, which is a 21st Century skill valued by employers. Social connection and feedback have a huge impact, and students develop a positive online reputation.

10. Copyright…not copying wrong - We are good citizens. We don’t steal films, we don’t steal music, and we don’t use images that we have no right to use. Being involved education is noble, but this does not put us above the law. We seek resources available for common use, or permission when freely available resources are not available.

Mr O’Meara  
eLearning Leader
CHRISTMAS MARKET

Please come and join us for some Christmas fun on…..

Saturday the 23rd of November
9:30am – 2:30pm
Manifold Heights Baptist Church
Crn Shannon Ave & Volum St
(Opposite Coles super market... Enter via Volum Street

Our stalls include:

- Handmade arts and crafts
- Authentic Asian cuisine
- Devonshire tea
- Sausage sizzle
- Cakes
- Jumping castle
- Plants
- Face painting
- And much, much more!!!

Merry Christmas