Welcome to Term 2 after what I hope has been a holiday period that was everything you and your family were hoping for!

The stage 2 buildings are progressing well, particularly noticeable to everyone on our return to school this term. There are four new buildings included in Stage 2 - PAF, PAF LC, Science and Administration. These buildings will be ready for us at the start of 2015!

- Performing Arts Food – known as the PAF. This building includes 2 specialist kitchens, a café area, the performing arts centre, specialist music practice rooms and a music classroom.

- PAF Learning Community – this is another Learning Community, very similar to the green and the blue buildings already on site. This building is at the back of the site near the netball courts, known as the PAF LC due to its proximity to the PAF.

- Administration – this is the building that has just begun, closest to Vines Road. This building will contain the College Reception Centre as well as offices and a staff room.

- Science – The Science building includes 3 specialist science rooms and a DaVinci Studio, the shared space surrounding the specialist science rooms. This building has two learning spaces, similar to the PODS at each end of our current learning communities, which are the flexible learning spaces for classes.
2015 YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING
Our information evening, held on 30 April, was a great success. As always our students are our greatest ambassadors as they proudly “show off” their college to guests and visitors. We are very proud of our students too! Our students and their families chose to attend Western Heights College and they are incredibly proud of their choice. Western Heights College is about the people who belong to it - the place to be!

ATTENDANCE
We have a very strong focus on attendance with the theme this year – Being Here and Being Successful! I would like to acknowledge the support of many parents/guardians that we receive as we work together to support high levels of attendance for every student. We know that students who attend school with high levels of attendance are also students who achieve well academically, who feel connected to their school, who feel a greater sense of wellbeing and who feel cared for. At Western Heights College teachers mark the class roll within the first 10 minutes of every class. Admin Assistants (AAs) follow up student absences by phoning families on the first day of every term, after 3 consecutive absences and after 5 cumulative absences each term. The reason that the AAs phone home to make contact with Parents/Guardians is to offer our support to you, to find out when your son/daughter will be returning to school, and to talk through and problem solve together any issues that you may be experiencing. We are persistent in following up absences for which I make no apology. We want our students at school with high levels of attendance, happy to be here, connected to their peers and teachers and achieving the best that they can.

YEAR 10-12 PARENT TEACHER STUDENT CONVERSATIONS AND YEAR 7 – 9 STUDENT LED CONFERENCES
Thank you to the many parents/guardians who attended the recent opportunities to talk with teachers about the progress your child is making in their studies. I’m sure it helps to put a face to the names of the teachers who teach your child. We don’t take for granted the support that you provide during these events, and thank you for rearranging very busy schedules to explicitly demonstrate your support for your children’s education. We are monitoring attendance at these events very closely and it is pleasing to see the increasing numbers of Parents/Guardians participating, evident through increased participation.

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY
Every term we have a college assembly where all students and staff gather in the Quamby Campus gymnasium. Our assembly last Friday was an Anzac Day ceremony, led by students, and including our special guests, Hamlyn Banks Primary School Grade 5 & 6 students and staff. As with all of our assemblies this was an exceptional event led by students, having a memorable impact on all who attended. We are fortunate to enjoy our freedom due to the sacrifices of so many people before us.

Thanks to Marcus Allport, our College Chaplain, for the arrangements he put in place to include students and empower them to take the lead.

Mrs Robyn Jeffery
College Principal

YEAR 7 AND YEAR 9 NAPLAN
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2014 for Years 7 and 9 students will be held on Tuesday 13 May, Wednesday 14 May and Thursday 15 May 2014. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

Later in the year, parents will receive their child’s individual NAPLAN report. The report will describe the child’s particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy, and performance in relation to national minimum standards.

The results of the tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals on student progress in these areas. The teachers at Western Heights College use this data to plan for students learning at an appropriate level and improve student achievement. Our teachers also use the results report to conference with individual students about their achievement and future learning goals.

All students in Years 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests, with catch-up tests for individual students who are absent on test days, up to and including Friday 16 May 2014. Exemptions may be granted in certain circumstances and requires parent consent. Please contact Robyn Anderson, Vines Road Campus Principal, at the college to discuss this or other queries regarding the testing.

For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAP website at www.nap.edu.au

Ms Robyn Anderson
Vines Road Campus Principal

COLLEGE ABSENCE LINE
If your student is going to be absent please phone the College absence line. 5277 9793
OFF TO A FLYING START!
A big thank you and congratulations to all students who attended their Student Led Conferences. All staff commented on how positive these were, the effort students put in and the standard at which these were conducted. A real celebration of your achievements for Term One - well done! We wish all students the very best for Term Two. Staff are finalising conference times during next week for students who could not attend the conferences at the end of term.

ATTENDANCE:
Being here’ is paramount for each student to gain the best results from their learning experience at WHC. Our Year 7 students continue to impress with their high levels of attendance. Well done to those students who have 100 per cent attendance this term. Some things parents can do to work with us to improve attendance are:

- making sure your child understands the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- taking an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
- discussing any problems they may have at school – inform their mentor teacher as soon as possible
- not letting them take time off school for minor ailments - particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work
- call the College Absence Line: 5277 9793 as soon as you are aware that your child will not be attending. It is really important to us to have this knowledge that your child is not attending as soon as possible. We may be waiting for them to attend an excursion for example.

There are many reasons for student’s absences. If you are having difficulty getting your child to school, please discuss the reason or concern with your child’s mentor teacher. We are interested in working with you to assist in raising student’s attendance when required.

LEARNING - NUMERACY AND LITERACY:
**Literacy** - Students have now completed Term One Literacy. They have actively participated in Literature Circles and have made a very good start to this component of Literacy. All students have been working on their second major piece of writing which is their Persuasive Essay which was due this week. Students will be working on a creative writing piece for their next major writing task. Students have also been asked to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Congratulations to all students who have committed themselves for this challenge; well done!

Year 7 students have set learning goals after reflecting on their data from Term One. Staff are working with students to move them along the AusVels progression points, with the student's goals in mind. Students have put in a lot of hard work, ensuring their every success. Students can further develop skills by being prepared for class in their PREP at home. All students are encouraged to borrow books from the library in addition to their Literature Circles book to read at home. Students have also been encouraged to read over their essays and work on these at home to ensure their very best work is achieved. Thanks to parents for supporting Literacy PREP.

**Numeracy** – We are equally pleased with Numeracy results from Term One with the vast majority of students moving forward from their pre test results to post test results. Students are currently working on Geometry. As with Literacy there is an expectation that students will take their PREP seriously for numeracy and read over their notes, practice their skills at home and complete their MATHS MATES each week. Students recently took home their log in for [http://www.mathsonline.com.au/](http://www.mathsonline.com.au/) This is an online tutorial program to support understanding of new skills students are focusing on. Students are asked to remember that the effort they put in will equate to the results they achieve. Therefore, whatever they can do to ensure they are organized for class, by PREParing for class at home will give them every chance for success. Please encourage your child to inform their teacher if additional assistance is required and/or communicate a message to their teacher in their planner.
SLATES:
Thanks to all parents for making every effort to commit to our slate program. Slates are a compulsory part of the learning in Year 7 and all students require access to many programs, application and communication that we use. For students who do not have a slate, they will borrow a laptop from the library each morning prior to their first class for the day and return this at the end of the day at the conclusion of their last class.

I take this opportunity to reinforce that the slates are a learning tool to be used for learning purposes only. We have worked with students and have protocols for slate use during session times, which students came up with as appropriate use of slates. Slates are used to aide in raising our standards of work, not for hindering work. Please assist us in reminding your child of this.

As staff at Western Heights College, we regularly check sites that students are accessing. Please work with us to further ensure that your child is using their slate appropriately both in and outside of school hours.

LITERACY IN YEAR 8
Student in Year 8 have made a promising start to Literacy this term. Many of the students have been eagerly anticipating the new writing unit which allows them to plan, draft, create and illustrate their own story book. Student are already discussing characters, plots and settings with their Literacy teachers and most can’t wait to get their ideas on paper. Families are encouraged to ask their child to share what they are planning to write, offer to proof read drafts, discuss plots (storylines) and offer support during the writing process.

The beginning of the new term also means a new 6 week Literature Circles cycle. Last term students selected their new texts to read over the term break. This gave students the opportunity to become familiar with their book and to begin the new term with a flying start. As Literacy teachers we were so proud to learn how many of our students took this opportunity.

Literature Circles takes place every Friday for each student in the Year 8 learning community. Each member of the Literature Circles group is expected to have read the relevant sections of their book at home prior to the group meeting. Each member of the Literature Circles group also has a designated ‘role’ and is expected to have come to Literature Circles each Friday prepared to share their learning with the other group members. Families can support students to do this well by asking what section of the novel has to be read each week. Offer to listen to your child read aloud as this helps to improve their reading fluency and tone. Ask your child to share what they have read and ask them to tell you what they think is going to happen next.

Please support and encourage your child to read every day. Better readers make better writers!

YEAR 8 CAMP
Students are eagerly counting down the days to our camp in Week 4! We are off to Anglesea Farm on May 14th and will have many stories to share with you on our return.

For families of students attending camp: Please contact your child’s mentor teacher with any questions you have surrounding camp as early as possible. More information will be coming home with your child this week and next week.

For families of students not attending camp: A detailed class program is being organised for your child. All students are required at school on May 14, 15 and 16. Please contact your child’s mentor teacher if you have questions regarding arrangements for this time. We look forward to sharing our adventures from Camp with you, as well as those we have at the College Cross Country on Monday May 5th.

Ms Michelle Roth
Year 7 Learning Community Leader.

Mrs Kelly Montano
Year 8 Learning Community Leader.
On Saturday April 12th, Nathan Hatton competed in the National Finals for Diving. Nathan won the Gold Medal for the 14/15 male platform event - a clear victory over many, very complex set of dives, and a considerable amount of talent from each state.

The platform was 7 – 10 metres high, and the many dives he had to undertake involved prolonged handstands on the edge of the board, flips, twists and other rather impressive displays of athleticism.

Nathan was highly focussed, very level-headed and clearly unable to be distracted or put off.

The event that made him champion was the most complex and the one he had wanted to win, so a great achievement all round. Nathan’s interest in diving began only in the last 12 months.

Well done Nathan on your wonderful achievement!

Mr Dean Greenhalgh
Year 9 Learning Community Leader.

SPORT:
Good luck to all Year 10 students representing the college in girls and boys football in the next two weeks.

CROSS COUNTRY - MAY 5:
All Year 10 students are required at school on this day to represent their sporting house. Good luck to everyone!

YEAR 10 IMMUNISATIONS:
Immunisation will take place on Tuesday 20th of May. Any families who have not returned permission slips to mentors please do so by Monday 5th of May.

YEAR 10 EXAMS TERM 2:
Year 10 students will be completing exams during week 8 of this term. This is an important opportunity for all year 10 students’ to experience the required preparations and exam conditions consistent with Year 11 and 12.

ATTENDANCE:
Year 10 Mentors will be contacting some students and parents in the next two weeks. Mentors will offering support and strategies to assist with improved attendance during term 2. We want our students here every day and successful.

Mr Roger Conron
Year 10 Learning Community Leader.
All students enrolled in one or more VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3 and 4 sequences must sit the GAT.

Although GAT results do not count directly towards a student’s VCE results, they play an important role in checking that school-based assessments and examinations have been accurately assessed, and in calculating Derived Examination Scores (incase a student becomes ill etc. during end of year exams). So it is important to sit the GAT and do as well as possible on all parts of it. Mrs Hammond has included more information in the Year 12 section.

The GAT is held during week eight of this term. This week will also include Unit 1 examinations. A timetable and more information regarding this will be published over the next two weeks.

Mr Brett Bullock
Year 11 Learning Community Leader.

FORTY PLUS CLUB WORKSHOP
The third workshop in the Forty Plus Club program will take place next Monday May 5th. It will be hosted in the Quamby Campus Library from 3.30pm until 4.30pm. Afternoon tea will be provided. There has been excellent student feedback from the previous workshops with all participants indicating they would recommend it to their peers. If there are any Year 12 students who would like to participate but have not yet enrolled, they are more than welcome. They should see Mrs Hammond.

EVERY DAY COUNTS
Every Day Counts is the motto for our Year 12 Learning Community. There is a strong positive relationship between attendance at school and achievement. As such we actively encourage all our Year 12 students to aim for regular attendance. In term one we ran an attendance based competition where all students who achieved in excess of 95% attendance were entered in a raffle draw. Congratulations to Michael Neilson who was the winner and was rewarded with a prize of a gift voucher.

GENERAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST (GAT) FOR ALL STUDENTS STUDYING AT LEAST ONE VCE 3 & 4 STUDY
The GAT will be held on Wednesday June 11 2014. It is an important part of VCE assessment procedures and all students enrolled in one or more VCE Studies or a scored VCE VET Unit 3 and 4 must sit the GAT (that includes Year 11 students enrolled in one VCE Unit 3 & 4 study).

It is a test of general knowledge and skills in the areas of:
- Written communication
- Mathematics, Science and Technology
- Humanities, the Arts and Social Sciences

While the GAT results do not contribute directly to a student’s VCE results, they play an important role in checking that school based assessments and examinations have been accurately assessed. This means that GAT scores may be used to even out marking differences that may occur from school to school.

The GAT will be used as part of a final check on examination scores. If a student’s final examination score is significantly different from the score predicted by the GAT, school indicative grades and any other examination scores for the study, their examination will be assessed again by the Chief Assessor.

A student whose performance on an examination is affected by the onset of illness, accident or personal trauma may apply for a Derived Examination Score.

All applications for a Derived Examination Score are assessed by a trained, external panel. If an application is approved, a student’s GAT scores will be used in the calculation of the Derived Examination Score.

Also Monash University may use the GAT in their selection process.

So as you can see the GAT is a valuable assessment devise and it is important that all students take it seriously and try their hardest when completing the GAT.

The GAT is a 3 hour exam and is made up of 3 parts:
- Writing task 1 (30 minutes)
- Writing task 2 (30 minutes)
- 70 multiple -choice questions (2 hours)

Students are to remain in the examination room for the entire 3 hours.

Student doing the GAT will receive further information regarding the GAT in the coming weeks, but if you want further information it can be accessed at http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vce/exams/gat/aboutgat.aspx#H2N10055

Here you will find information about the use of the GAT, instructions for completing the GAT as well as being able to access previous GAT papers.

Ms Kerrie Hammond
Year 12 Learning Community Leader
Welcome back to all of you! It is already nearing the end of the second week of term two, and as I write this I am surrounded by the gentle sounds of student activity as learning and engagement take place in our great school. I find this sound quite comfortable and inspiring; mostly because it is a tangible proof of life that points to the fact there is always something happening here. A comment was made by a colleague at the end of last year on the final day as to how eerie and empty our buildings feel without our students. As I wrote then, it is quite true, we actually miss our students when they are away (and as I mentioned at the start of the year, this has been noticed by students themselves!)

Our big focus area is now on engagement – particularly attendance. I am alarmed when we have students repeatedly absent – it means they are missing out, not only on their learning, but also on the advantage their peers have in being able to access the plethora of resources our college offers that extend over and above education. The amount we have to share as a community with our students far exceeds anything I grew up with – not because I was disadvantaged, rather as the decades have gone by we as a society in education have learned more about what else is needed in our school communities to ensure our young people are equipped fully for the challenges and triumph of life.

That is why we have an unashamed student centred and driven approach. That is why we foster strong relationships between our staff and students – what we teach, we practise – that is why we seek to have our students engage in the wider community and explore partnering opportunities; turning from being consumers to contributors, from being entitled to being responsible, from being care-free to being care-ful.

If you are or if you have a student who is not attending on a regular basis, or is struggling, the first and most important question I ask is why. There is no right or wrong answer to this question – however it needs to be answered.

After asking why, the second one is what – What can we do as a school to assist? What can you do as parent or student?

Please do not think you are alone in this, please contact your student’s mentor teacher or myself or one of my colleagues.

The recent term break gave me time to do professional reading, some community visiting and of course reflecting on my own practice within the school, as I, like all staff, seek to always improve in my role. As part of the break, I had the privilege of being able to attend some events in which our students participated – a highlight for me was when, on behalf of the College, I attended the National Diving Finals in which Nathan Hatton not only participated, but won Gold in his age and discipline division – he is now the national champion!

The spectacle and display of athleticism, discipline and skill was incredible. Among the accolades that rightly followed as a quite humble Nathan received his medal on the podium, I allowed myself a moment of being smug when asked how I knew him, and I replied “He is one of OUR students”.

There are many other unsung achievers in our community – I am making it my mission to discover you all! From our cadets to our motorcross champions, from our CFA volunteers to our Aged Care servers – you are all valuable, - and it is you who make our college great.

Wishing you the very best for a successful term 2.

Marcus Allport
College Chaplain

A warm welcome back to all! Our term has commenced as expected, using the old adage, “full steam ahead” – and this is very encouraging as it is both positive and exciting: positive- because we are not a dormant community of students and staff, rather we are a fast paced, interactive and engaging community of student led learning, exciting – because we are seeing continual growth in a tangible way on a daily basis in our students. For all of us, we are continually amazed when we see a student engage in their learning in a new way, or display a gift or talent hitherto unknown.

An example of this was the recent college ANZAC assembly – the source of immense pride for us as a college. This assembly was student led, student presented and student driven.

One student who took a significant role in the assembly was Liam Spokes, from Year 9 being responsible for the very impressive military parade!
Our focus this term and beyond is on attendance. It is imperative that every student attend school on a regular basis, engage with their educational development to a high standard in order to realise fully their individual and collective potential as the future leaders of coming generations. This mandate is inspired from our collective staff attitude that each student is cared for, significant and worthy.

Put simply....

WE WANT OUR STUDENTS HERE,
WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO LEARN
BECAUSE
THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO US
THEY WILL ONE DAY BE THE COMMUNITY
LEADERS, WORKERS AND ROLE MODELS!

It is NOT OK to be away! School engagement is perhaps the most important developmental aspect of our lives, for more reasons than we can put in this one article. At Western Heights College, we take pride in our growing reputation in the wider community for being not only a college striving for excellence, but also the lengths to which we will go, the flexibility we are willing to demonstrate in order to ensure each and every student attends, engages, grows and develops in their learning and as they themselves mature into young adults.

We as a team will be working with staff assisting those families and students who are facing challenges in attending school and achieving their best.

We as a team are once again looking forward to an excellent term at Western Heights College.

Mr Paul Rogers & The Wellbeing Team.

A reminder that the MyLe program is mandatory for all Year 7 and 10 students. The take up has been fantastic at Year 7 where we now have over 80% of students with their new slates and almost 60% of Year 10s. Students at both year levels need their personal slate to fully participate in the learning program offered at Western Heights College. If parents have questions about alternate payment plans they can discuss this with Marlene Barker on 5277 1177. The College is very keen to see every student in these year levels fully participating in the benefits the MyLe program offers, so don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any problems.

A major part of the MyLe program is the recognition that digital literacy is a core skill all students need for their future learning and working life. Part of this literacy is the skill to manage these personal devices effectively. I have spoken about the need to bring them to school fully charged and ready to learn. This is a core component of the routines mentor teachers emphasise with students on a daily basis. Another important aspect is keeping the slates free of unnecessary software. All our slates are protected by Microsoft Security Essentials which is an excellent anti-virus program. What it can’t protect against is when students install programs from the internet that aren’t viruses, but end up “clogging” up their slate. These are often installed as search “helpers”, “PC cleaners”, “optimizers” and come for a free ride when installing other software. Our slates do not need any extra software installed for their good operation and to stay virus free. If a web site offers to install something to “help” you it is almost always going to cause you more problems in the long run. Ironically this is how these pest programs need to be installed now because anti-virus checkers are so good they need the users themselves to install the malware.

In summary:

- There is no need to install ANY other anti-virus or protection software on your slate.
- Read all pages and check all “check boxes” when installing ANY software. These programs often “piggy back” on other installs.
- The answer to “should I install this free program” off the internet is almost always NO.

See these links for more information.


Mr Peter Good
Network Manager
YEAR 10 MIPS INTERVIEWS
The Year 10 Managed Individual Pathways (MIPS) Interviews for 2014 commenced on Tuesday April 22 and will be conducted throughout Term 2 in the MIPS/Careers Room in the Quamby Campus Library. All Year 10 students have been allocated with an individual appointment time.

Parents are encouraged to attend and it has been great to see so many parents in attendance at their child’s interview over the past 2 weeks.

All subject teachers have been informed of the MIPS interview process and schedule and they reserve the right to request a student to reschedule the interview if there is a clash with an important subject related event such as an assessment or excursion. In this instance students can make an alternative booking on the schedule sheet located in the foyer of the Quamby Campus library.

If you have any questions regarding this process or the timing of your child’s interview or you are unsure of your child’s individual appointment time, please do not hesitate to contact Tracey Jeffery on 5277 1177.

ALCOA FUTURE LEADERS OF INDUSTRY (AFLOI) PROGRAM
Congratulations to Alana Zafra and Samara Arnott in Year 10 for their acceptance into the Alcoa Future Leaders of Industry (AFLOI) program. Alana and Samara will participate in a 6 day program including leadership and communication training, tour of Alcoa, exploring the Bio Lab, visits to the Geelong Quality Council, Systems Engineering (Robotics) session and tours of industry sites, Boundary Bend Olives, Marand Engineering and Lyondell Bassell.

NEW GEELONG CAREERS APP
This is a free Geelong resource available on iPhone and Android.

- Live regional job feed with on line application
- Top eight trending industries and the fastest growing careers within each one
- airCV facility and video case studies of industry heroes

AGE VCE & CAREERS EXPO
The largest Careers Expo is only a few weeks away. Tickets are valid all weekend and this is a great opportunity to explore options for VCE and Careers.

WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK AUGUST 4 - 8.
Last term all students were given their Work Experience paperwork. If they haven’t already done so, students need to begin looking for their work experience placement in earnest. Whilst it may seem that August 4 is a long way away, the reality is that the deadline for returning the completed paperwork confirming a student’s work experience placement is Monday 23 June.

If an employer commits to a work experience placement, the work experience form will need to be taken to them for signing. After completing the sections for students and also for parents, the student returns the form to their Mentor teacher. Work experience is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience the world of work and try something out of their comfort zones. Every student in Year 10 will do work experience during Work Experience Week and it is possible for students to do additional Work Experience at other times.

Mr Lu Temelkovski
Quamby Campus Principal

COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY MONDAY 5TH OF MAY
Normal timetabled classes will operate for sessions 1 and 2. At approximately 11am students will travel to Fyansford to start the run.

Students are highly encouraged to display their house pride by dressing in appropriate sports clothing in their house colours.

We are looking forward to yet another terrific whole college sporting event.
On Thursday 24th April our Year 8 Performing Arts classes attended a pilot program at the Geelong Performing Arts Centre focusing on race based discrimination.

Students rotated through Artistic Merit Kaleidoscope Workshops at the Geelong Art Gallery and Regional Library where they explored cultural differences and self-identity.

Members of the MASSIVE Hip Hop choir then ran a participatory workshop that addressed raced based discrimination through role play, group signing, rapping and body percussion. Students effectively identified the harm of discrimination and how to step in using the L.I.D.S strategy as developed by the Sisters and Brothers program – [http://sistersandbrothersproject.org](http://sistersandbrothersproject.org)

Mrs Kerrie Hutchinson
Dance Teacher.