Welcome back to students and families to the start of Term 4 after what I hope was a holiday with everything you hoped for! The last term of the year seems to creep up, making us very aware that the end of the year is fast approaching. This is true for all year levels, and particularly true for students whose days of secondary schooling are almost over, as is the case for our Year 12 students. Exams are approaching quickly for Year 10, 11 and 12 students and I know that all students appreciate the support and guidance they receive jointly from both home and school. We don’t tend to wish our Year 12s luck, for we know it’s effort and hard work that makes the difference, and so I wish all Year 12s the very best success during the approaching exam period.

Please know that your teachers are available and contactable during the study break and up to the scheduled exam of each study, a definite strategy in place to offer students extra guidance and support.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES:
Thank you to the many families who participated in the student led conferences held at the end of term for our middle years’ students on the Vines Road Campus. This was the first outing for our online appointment system and I thank all families for your engagement in this process. As with any change I watch with interest to make sure that we have “covered all bases.” I offer my sincere thanks to the families of our college who have once again shown your incredible support for the college. You made the appointments for the student led conferences with ease and from my observations from a distance, we continue to raise the bar on the quality of the conferences that students led with their families and parents in attendance. Staff have shared with pride so many positive stories about the individual progress being made by the students they are teaching. The Year 9 students I spoke with were very confident they were well prepared and would do well.

And the Year 7 students I spoke with, while appearing a little nervous, were confident they were well prepared and were looking forward to the opportunity to excel.

COLLEGE CAMPS PROGRAM:
Our Camps program has enhanced the opportunities offered to students within the college. Year 10 students returned from the Tasmania trip during the holidays after having a great time. I acknowledge the input of staff into this camp, Ms Fran Smith, Ms Miriam Day, Mr Andrew Travers, and also to staff who have contributed to the other camps that have occurred during the year. It’s great to have a College Camps program, progressive throughout the college, offering a broad range of experiences to our students, which they really do appreciate.

TERM 4 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:
Parents/Guardians will also have received the Term 4 calendar of events for the Campus where your children attend. Our aim in distributing these calendars is to give you an overview of major events with plenty of time to make the necessary arrangements. Enhancing our communication with families is high on our agenda, and this is one strategy in place to try to do this.

ONLINE COURSE SELECTION PROCESS:
This is the second year in the college that students have very successfully completed their course selections online. Excellent work to everyone involved – families, students and staff! Very high percentages of students in each Learning Community submitted complete course selections by the due date. The course selection process in our college is significant; including Parent Information Evenings, students’ personalised curriculum handbooks, online course selection processes, mentor
support for students’ course selections, connections with families. One of the most impressive elements of the process this year, apart from those listed above, has been the use of data. Our timetable developer, Mrs Carol Jansen (also the current Quamby Campus Principal) has managed this process and shared course selection updates and percentages to continue to enhance the quality of the process. There is attention given to each individual student, which is our aim. This improvement is significant and worth celebrating!

FROM QUAMBY TO VINES:
By the end of this year Western Heights College will be off the Quamby Avenue site and onto the Vines Road site – very exciting times! While we certainly acknowledge the past connected with the many years of education on the Quamby Campus, with good memories for many people, the future is exciting! The red building that you can see from Vines Road, with the Vitruvian Man soon to be visible, is the first building the College will take ownership of during a staged hand-over. This is the Science building, which will host the Year 11 and 12 Learning Communities next year, as well as specialist Science classes for Years 9 – 12 students.

The new buildings look absolutely amazing! Tiled outdoor chess boards, stoves, ovens, sinks, lights, cool-room, ballet bar, PAF timber floor, tiered seating, whiteboards, pin boards, floor coverings, admin foyer entrance – it really is absolutely amazing! Last Friday I was joined on the site visit by staff who were also overwhelmed by how amazing it looks. Some Year 10 students also joined the tour and they were so excited it was infectious. The college will receive possession of each building in a staged process, with the last handover of the Administration building expected in mid-December.

When driving past, you can also see the progress being made with the landscaping. The arrangements are that the landscaping is looked after by the contractor for the first 13 weeks which should ensure it has a good start, particularly over the Christmas holidays.

I often think of my grandfather’s house, one where all of the rooms were quite separate and isolated. And then I think of my own house where the rooms are more open. Many of you will think of lots of examples such as this, whether it be about the houses you have lived in, the offices you have worked in or the changes in other buildings you have observed. We are so lucky to have the flexible new spaces at the Vines Road site, giving us the opportunity to truly provide purposeful, contemporary learning practices for our students. They can work independently and collaboratively, skills worth developing for use now and for use in their futures. We are on the right track and as a College, doing very well!

Ms Tami O’Hare
Associate Principal

2015 YEARS 9-12:
Through communications including the Parent eNewsletter and 2015 Information Evenings, the online course selection process that parents have had access to and the signing off by parents of student preferences for courses and studies for 2015, families will be aware that we are well organised in terms of planning for 2015.

On Wednesday November 5 all 2015 Years 9-12 students and families are invited to attend a 2015 course confirmation session with their child’s 2014 mentor. This is an extremely important session for each student as it removes some of those ‘wonderings’ and sometimes anxieties for students that can be in their mind sometimes until they actually commence the new school year.

At this session students will receive a package which will provide important information to ensure they are ready for 2015. Included in the package will be the studies they will be undertaking in 2015. Students in Year 9 will know for example their ‘Personal Choice’ studies for each of the four terms and their ‘Skilling the Bay’ program; Year 10-12 students will know each of their semester studies. This formal process will reconfirm as a package prior communication you may have received from the Later Years or Middle Years Principals in relation to student applications for specific programs including Skilling the Bay at Year 9, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at Years, 9 and 10, the VET Taster Program at Year 10, VCAL, etc. Also included will be the 2015 booklists, VET confirmations, transition timetables, costs associated with studies, etc.

The Parent Portal will be open from 7.00am on October 20 to enable you to make an appointment time for course confirmation. Information to assist in familiarising yourself with this process is available in the Network News section of this eNewsletter. I urge you to make a time that suits so that you are able to attend with your child as this will ensure both yourself and your child can prepare for 2015 with the knowledge of what their course of study looks like.

Ms Tami O’Hare
Associate Principal

2014 COLLEGE YEAR BOOK
The cost of the College Year Book is covered in the annual levy. If you have not paid this fee and would a like copy of the year book for your family please make a payment of $15.00 to the General Office.
2015 INFORMATION EVENING:
On November 12 at 7.00pm, Western Heights College 2015 Year 8 Information Evening will be held in the blue building. The expectation is that all Year 7 students will be there in attendance to gather information and have the opportunity to learn about the program and how this will look in 2015. It is also an opportunity to meet with teachers and ask questions. For those of you who have had previous children attend our college, there have been many changes and it is well worth attending. It is also very important to give your child this experience in their transition from Year 7 to Year 8. We look forward to seeing you there.

MESH EXCURSION:
On Wednesday 15 November, students and staff ventured to Balyang Sanctuary to take part in activities concerning ‘water’. Students learnt about Macroinvertebrates by capturing these and classifying them. They also looked at their abundance in the Barwon River. Students interpreted their results and discussed the impact of these bugs in our rivers.

Students also participated in a walk along the Corangamite Waterwatch Stormwater Trail, where they learnt where stormwater begins, what happens along the way to this water and where it ends up.

Students went along the Barwon River Environmental Trail to explore why tangles lignum provides such good shelter for animals and to realise why many councils restrict firewood collection and more.

Finally, students completed a habitat survey which consisted of bank vegetation, verge vegetation, bank erosion and stability and ripples, pools and bends. They gave each a rating, then interpreted whether the habitat conditions were excellent, good or fair.

Students were full of new learnings from today’s activities and absorbed each new piece of information. Many students asked terrific questions throughout the day, leading to engaging group discussions.

It was a pleasure being part of such a learning focused day with well behaved students. We were all so proud of the way in which our Year 7 students conducted themselves throughout the entire day, representing our college with pride.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES:
Thanks to each and every student who presented, with pride and confidence, their achievements at their second student led conference. Staff particularly enjoy watching the glow on students’ faces and the sheer delight that parents expressed. Well done! We thank parents for making this effort to catch up if they missed the allocated evening.

CHESS AND YGOICH:
Each week the draw is posted and the players have a week to find and play their opponent. This will run for 8 weeks with random weekly draws for the players who play their games for the week. Last term this was a great success with students interacting with fellow Year 7 students and staff that they do not normally interact with on a daily basis. Last term Nicholas from 7A won the chess competition, winning a competition chess set and board. Tom G from 7C won the YuGiOh competition, winning a starter pack of his choosing along with multiple packs of cards. Well done to you both and good luck to all competitors this term.

Abbey and Hailey were excited to see the rosellas who flew away just as we took this picture. The girls learned all about the environment that you can see in the background and how pollutants in the water affects it.

Jack, Thomas, Jackson and Sam were concerned about the duck below which was swimming in algae.

Ms Michelle Roth
Year 7 Learning Community Leader.
Year 8 News

What a fast paced start it has been in Year 8. Students are getting right into the Medieval spirit and it is fantastic to see. We began with an investigation into the Battle of Hastings in 1066. With the death of the heirless King Edward and four claimants to the throne, someone was bound to be unhappy with the appointment of King Harold. Students investigated the strength of each of the four claimants, and many of them preferred the strength a Viking King could offer over Harald, the King’s Brother in Law who was promised succession in King Edwards last words.

We are currently looking into the meanings of Family Crests and students have been very thorough investigating what they want to represent them. This learning was stimulated by the scene in ‘A Knight’s Tale’ where William, a Knight’s squire, decided to fake his regal family tree and take them on in tournaments to make his fortune, and ‘change his Stars’. His crest involved three phoenix’s wings unfurled.

In Numeracy, students are showing off their skills in their Geometric Construction Assignment. What has been fabulous to see in this task has been the high number of students happy to assist others in perfecting the skill. Nothing reinforces a new skill like teaching it to someone else. Students are now moving into their Probability unit where it was fascinating to see the chance percentages of a two coin toss proved in a live recording of 800 throws. Our data mimicked the equal distribution of the four possible results (HH, TT, TH and HT) and near 25%, rather than the equal third results some students insisted it would be.

In Literacy, we have begun our new Literacy Circles books and roles. It is pleasing to see students motivation to read in this structure increasing rapidly as the year progresses. Students are also creating some brilliant pieces of work as part of their Writer’s Notebook prompts. In week one, some genuinely scary and thrilling pieces were put together by students based on the beginning of Anthony Horowitz’s “The Phone Went Dead”, as well as our links to gothic horror in our Medieval studies. This week, students wrote some very passionate and personal responses in response to seeing just how people responded and reacted to a simulated act of racism. It really hit home with many students that our message of ‘Respect for All’ goes beyond gender equality and social status.

We have been working closely with students to ensure they have submitted their preferences for their Geelong Tertiary Futures Program. The buzz this opportunity has generated among students has been fabulous and it is an experience many of them are anticipating will be among their highlights of Year 9.

Mrs Kelly Montano
Year 8 Learning Community Leader

Year 7 Continued...

FOOD TECHNOLOGY:
This term has seen some great food being produced already. The students from Green and Blue house have cook triple decker steak sandwiches, rosie mushroom and spinach pasta sauce with penne pasta and microwavable apple crumble with ice cream. I strongly recommend the apple crumble to all parents. I did hear a few students saying that they will be making that again at home, so keep an eye out for these. We are about to start a new project where students will be investigating the healthy eating pyramid and presenting their learning in a manner that is appropriate and interesting for Grade 5 students. The top student projects will be delivered to local Grade 5 students.

TEXTILES:
The da Vinci space has been a hive of activity this term. We have started a new project in textiles. The students in red and yellow houses are designing and making a denim phone cover, pencil case or slate cover to remind them of a friend or a holiday. The students have been using their slates to access the task on OneNote, record their progress and watch the tutorial video on how the project is to be assembled. I encourage all parents to ask to see how the project is progressing, assist where you can and if it is all too foreign, have a look at the tutorial video with your child. Once this task is completed we will start work on the felt monster task. The video links are up and students can start watching the videos to get a head start on the tasks so they can hit the ground running to produce the weirdest and craziest monsters that they can imagine.

Mr Luke Scott
Year 7 Teacher

MUSIC:
The Year 7 students have completed their unit learning to play keyboard. It was great to see so many students mastering keyboard with two hands by the end of the term. Students were able to share their learning with their parents at their student led conferences. This term students are embarking on a song analysis task on a song of their choice.

CHOIR:
After weeks and weeks of rehearsing, the choir performed for the Senior Citizens during their Wednesday lunch at the Vines Road Community Centre last week. This coincided beautifully with Seniors Week.

Mrs Lynch
Year 7 Teacher
The Year 9 Team would like to welcome all the Year 9 students to Term 4. We hope that you had a very enjoyable break and are looking forward to the final term of Year 9.

Students have started their Focus unit “I can Make a Difference” where students work through a program to make a difference around the school community and local community. There will be explicit workshops run for all the Year 9 students throughout this unit.

We look forward to an exciting term, with student learning the strong focus.

Mr Greenhalgh and the Year 9 Team

Welcome back to Term 4 which will prove to be fast and fruitful for our Year 10 students.

A special congratulation to the Year 10’s who went to Tassie. The feedback was that they were a pleasure to take on the trip. We also heard they were very grateful for the experience and the efforts of the teachers who participated. Thank you to Mr Andy Travers and Ms Miriam Day for their participation and especially to Ms Fran Smith for all her hard work organising and running the adventure.

On the radar for this term are:

**Course Confirmation** will take place on the 5/11 12:30pm-7:30pm

**Year 10 exams** week 8, 25/11-28/11 and the preparation work for students to be successful in these exams.

In last week’s assembly it was presented to students, regardless of the pathway they take in the next two years and beyond they need this practice. Students will need to do driving licence tests and job aptitude tests, so these exams are an important opportunity to gain experience.

**Year 11 Transition 2/12-4/12.** This will take place on the Quamby Campus.

Mr Roger Conron
Year 10 Learning Community Leader

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**TASMANIA TRIP:**

The Year 10 group headed to Tasmania on the Tuesday before the holidays. We had an amazing time experiencing a range of great activities. We walked around Cradle Mountain where we had snow, we cruised up the Gordon River, had a fantastic jet boat ride, walked above the Huon River on the airwalk and visited Port Arthur and experienced the Ghost Tour among a wide range of other activities. Ask any of the students who came, they were blown away by the experiences they had. As one of the teachers who went, the students made it one of the best I’ve been on. Well Done Year 10 Tassie travellers!

Ms Fran Smith
Year 10 Teacher

**ENGLISH:**

Students have just begun a short unit studying poetry. They have a range of tasks to choose from that allow them to learn about the history of poetry, features and techniques used in poetry and how to create different styles of poem.

This is a poem written by one of our students whose aim was to use sight to create imagery.

“The Tree In The Yard”

I wish there was a tree,
In our backyard I mean,
Whose leaves would grow, ever-
- green,
And branches by all could be seen.

There would be many a bee,
In our tree standing tall,
Their honey, it would drip through all of the fall,
And their golden wings, oh so small.

The birds would fly free,
And land in our leaf coloured yard,
Wings fast and feathers marred,
The bark of our tree, now scarred.

And children would skip around thee;
Our tree, majestic like a jewelled king,
Around him all beasts would sing,
Flowers and fruits along the roots like a ring.

But we have no tree for you to see,
Our yard, broken and bare, it be full of weeds,
Dirt grey and dry, its laughs at our planted seeds,
Who try to grow, yet produce only reeds.

Our fence is breaking, I’m sure you can see,
No beasts and no birds, nor children for me,
Lonely and desolate, there’s no sound that be,
It’s cold and it’s tired, this yard unto me.

I wish there was a tree; in our backyard I mean,
Whose leaves would grow, ever-green.
As we enter the final term of Year 11 for 2014 our emphasis is towards finishing strongly and giving every one of our students the best lead into their final year of secondary schooling. This will be a very busy time for everyone as we finish VCE Unit 2 theory and prepare for the end of year exams. Those of you who have a student studying a VCE 3/4 study would already know that preparation is well and truly underway.

In Advisory, we are focussing on the steps required to prepare for end of year exams in all subjects. To help understand this process – and to hear it from students who have recently been through Year 12 – we took 44 students to Deakin University’s “Transition into Year 12” session. We also had Elevate Education run their “Ace your Exams” program. Feedback from students involved in both of these programs was 100% positive. The information the students gained from both of these programs will be the centre of our work in Advisory classes.

“The Deakin University program was a great experience for the Year 11 students to have an idea and key knowledge about what to expect in Year 12 and how to maintain your overall performance. It was also a great resource in advance to completing VCE or VCAL which was advice for future plans for the Year 11 students. Many students were asked about their future occupations or what they strive to become and how to work towards goals to reach the final outcome of their dream job. However, Deakin University strongly advised for students to strive for passion over money, as it was mostly the main goal for young adults. Deakin provided explanations and examples of different wealthy people who succeeded in their life choosing their passions over money and explained how they became rich in choosing the passions they love. Individuals who strive solely for money and who don’t choose passion suffer consequences of having a low performance and in their effectiveness and efficiency of what they could be achieving if they chose a job which suits them. Deakin’s program was a fantastic idea to what to expect in the future of employment and the ability of achieving success in Year 12.”

By Nam (Richie) Huynh

Finally, this week we will begin the process of electing school captains and house leaders for 2015. This will include students applying via a brief letter, an interview process and eventually a speech to the remainder of the Year 11 students prior to an election. This will be a fantastic opportunity and experience for any student considering these positions and I am excited to be involved in this process this year.

Mr Brett Bullock
Year 11 Learning Community Leader

VCAL:
The Year 11 VCAL students have been supporting the Geelong Animal Welfare Society by making food enrichment toys for the dogs that are ready for adoption. The toys stimulate the dogs and provide a source of emotional well being.
CONGRATULATIONS- YEAR 12 ACHIEVEMENTS:
It is wonderful to be involved with such a talented group of students. Today at assembly we acknowledged the achievements of many of our Year 12 students. These included Jazzmon Maher who won second place in the ladies division of the Geelong Secondary Zonal Chess Tournament.
Mr Anawati presented a number of students with certificates of achievement for involvement in the 2014 Maths competition. Congratulations to the following students Melika Arnott, Saige Doyle, Luke Hatton, Millicent Kaiser, Benjamin Kelly, Cameron McLeod, Michael Hillbrick, Mihail Iljevski, Daniel Jovic, Callum Meldrum, Shawantha Niyangoda, Cameron Pleissnitzer and Tara Tylinski.

The final countdown to the end-of-year exams is well and truly on. During the term break there were a number of revision programs offered for students at school. I would like to commend the students that made the most of this valuable learning opportunity and thank the staff Mrs Tyzack, Ms Spencer, Mr Edmonds, Mrs Doak and Mrs McDonald who facilitated this program.

END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS:
Final Classes - The final day of official classes is Monday October 21. This is followed by Celebration Day on Tuesday October 22. The Celebration Day activities begin at 9.00 am and we look forward to joining together as a Learning Community to recognize the end of formal classes for our Year 12 student cohort.
Swotvac – Swotvac commences on Wednesday October 23. Students are not required at school during this time. However they are actively encouraged to attend to access learning support. All Year 12 staff will be in their classrooms during their normal scheduled time for their subject from the beginning of Swotvac until the day of their subject's scheduled end-of-year exam. This is to allow students to easily access their teachers for support, clarification and feedback.

END-OF-YEAR EXAMS:
Students are to be commended for their approach to the recent practice exams. This was a valuable learning experience for all students as they experienced examinations under VCAA conditions. Students are reminded that full school uniform is to be worn for all exams, electronic devices are not permitted in the exam centre and water bottles must be clear. Students are encouraged to hand in their electronic devices to the student support office prior to their exams. Each student has been given an individualized examination timetable. However, the general timetable can be accessed from the VCAA site at: http://www.vcea.vic.edu.au/pages/vce/exams/timetable.aspx#written
Please note that students are required to wear school uniform for the exams and are required to remain in the exam for the full duration.

GRADUATION
A reminder that graduants are required at Costa Hall, Deakin University for the Graduation Ceremony at 2.30pm on Wednesday November 19. The Graduation Ceremony commences at 6.00pm followed by the Graduation Dinner at The Mecure from 7.30pm until 11.30pm.
VCE BIOLOGY
Year 12 Biology Gene Manipulation
On Monday September 1 the Year 12 Biology class caught the train to Melbourne to visit the Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC) at University High School. Our students carried out experiments related to their study of Biotechnology and Gene Manipulation. Using state of the art equipment and working with PhD students, they used restriction enzymes and Gel Electrophoresis to isolate and identify fragments of DNA. They then inserted a Jellyfish gene, which fluoresces under UV light, into the bacteria E.coli. Our students really enjoyed working with the young scientists and gathering data to be used at school in their SAC. Back at school, we allowed the E.coli to incubate at 37 degrees for two days and were rewarded with seeing Green fluorescing E.coli colonies. So we had successfully transformed the E.coli. This activity has given our students a taste of what it is like to work and study in the field of Research Biology.

Nicole Henry
Year 12 Teacher

YEAR 11 AND 12 NOVELS FOR 2015:
With the aim of further improving our students’ VCE English achievements in 2015, all current Year 10 and 11 students enrolled in English for next year will purchase their first novel in time for our transition program; transition for Year 10 students (going into Year 11) will run from December 2 – 4 with Year 11 students beginning their transition to Year 12 on 25 November.
The 2015 Year 11 novel, ‘Jasper Jones’ by Craig Silvey, will be available from Course Confirmation Day (November 5) onwards. It is available in paperback from the Western Heights College General Office for $23.99 or as an ebook – instructions for this option will be communicated during your Course Confirmation appointment.
The 2015 Year 12 novel, ‘Burial Rites’ by Hannah Kent, will also be available for purchase from Course Confirmation Day. There is no ebook option for this year level. The paperback version sells for $19.99.

Key dates:
- Both texts will be available to purchase from November 5 (Course Confirmation Day)
- Texts are to be purchased before Transition (Year 10 to Year 11 transition begins on December 2 and Year 11 to Year 12 begins on November 25)
- The Year 10 and 11 teaching teams will be offering various incentives to encourage full participation in this process.

Many thanks in anticipation of your cooperation.

Kym Tyzack
English Academic Panel

COURSE CONFIRMATION DAY
WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER
2015 YEAR 9, 10, 11 or 12
All students are to attend to receive the following information:
- 2015 Course Confirmation
- 2015 Resource List
- 2015 Fees and Charges List
- 2015 Transition Program

Parents can book an appointment through the Parent Portal.
Please see main article on page 2 for further information.
Back with a bang! Metaphorically of course, however we have all had a great start to Term 4 and it is great that so much is already underway! All staff are here to support your student in this exciting term, and we in the wellbeing team are again delighted to be assisting not only your child, but also those who enable your student to engage in their development and learning.

Our philosophy is strongly and unashamedly student-centred – and in keeping with this we continue a number of strategies, initiatives and practices. The most significant of these is of course our focus on attendance – your child cannot engage if they are away! Even though it is Term 4, we will be targeting attendance and ensuring our students have the supports, means and confidence to be at school right up until the final school day of the year!

An exciting initiative is the upcoming White Ribbon Day on 7 November. Our school is the flagship for this in partnership with the City of Greater Geelong, Barwon Health and White Ribbon itself. On this day our school will be hosting and presenting a number of initiatives, exhibitions and seminars all with the aim at educating our community about respect and respectful relationships.

Our programs continue, with the addition of two new ones – Girls Go Extreme being offered for our Year 9 students, and Know Yourself! Boundaries and Self Care for Years 9 and 10. Furthermore in conjunction with Barwon Health we will again host Docs and Teens, as well as a variety of other groups. For more information, please contact your student’s mentor or one of us.

We hope and trust you all had a sensational break and are well and truly into this fantastic term.

Mr Paul Rodgers & the Wellbeing Team

Welcome back!
There is a lot on, and this will increase as the term goes on. As I have often written, this is a sign of a vibrant community – in our case it is a vibrant community of learners fundamentally (I include myself as a learner), and then at different levels and seasons we all move in and out of that learner role, whether to enquirer, facilitator, teacher, caregiver – yet underpinning and with appropriate humility, we always remain learners.

Learning is life giving, learning is lifelong, and learning is life changing. We need to take time to reflect on this simple truth – and then realise with gratitude that in our school community which is situated in a country wherein education is enshrined as a right, not a privilege for some obstinate elite. In fact, I used to joke to my friends in Germany that only in Australia can there be such an ironic paradox whereby we are penalised for not participating in democracy and also for not ensuring our children receive an education!

Last Tuesday I spoke to the Year 12s as part of their final assembly, and I was quite struck when I realised I was addressing a crowd of not young people entering their adolescence, rather a group of men and women who by virtue of being in that room, already demonstrated success at having completed some thirteen years of education. It is an exciting time, and as they now enter the final round of assessments, they are our story of success too, leaving our community to enter society as the up and coming new generations of leaders, workers, thinkers, contributors you name it! I am very proud of all of them, as are my colleagues. We certainly wish you Year 12s and their parents/caregivers all the very best as they commence the final phase of the year, and we are there to support them as they transition through it.

In thinking about being a learner myself, I have started in the past months to ask at the end of the day not what have I done today, how did such-and-such go, where am I up to on the case of this or that, rather – what have I learned? And the answer is always one that requires a position of humility, simply because learning is its own double edged sword. However, as a process, it is the best teacher ever. There has been more than one occasion where I have quoted something or used a catchy phrase in a session and then realised it wasn’t from any training resource, or book or the latest in scholarship on a particular subject – rather it has been the pertinent, insightful comment made by a student to me or a class/group on a particular topic at some stage prior, and I have absorbed it, learned from it, and it has helped shape my practice. Maybe I should start to collate these!

As the weather turns warmer, and as the buildings for the new school rocket ahead, there is an increasing sense of excitement that I feel is going to carry on way beyond the end of the year.

Wishing you all a wonderful fortnight,
Marcus
Parents now have the ability to book even more school events on-line.

This week the Year 8 students have selected courses for their 2015 Gordon Tertiary Future Program, an exciting offering at Western Heights College you can read about elsewhere in this week’s newsletter. Parents can view their Year 8 child’s selection by going to the Portal > Course Selection > Tertiary Futures Program.

Another important upcoming event for 2015 Year 9 to 12 students is the Course Confirmation Session.

This is held on Wednesday 5 November 2014, with 15 minute appointment times available between 12:30 – 7:30pm. These sessions must be booked on-line, instructions follow. These are very similar to booking the Student Led Conferences last term, so parents who did that will be familiar with the procedure.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOUR CHILD’S COURSE CONFIRMATION SESSION:

To access our Parent Portal visit our www.whc.vic.edu.au page and click the link at the bottom. Once there, please save it in your favourites for easy access later on. You will need your logon details which were mailed to you last term.

The COURSE CONFIRMATION link appears at the top of the home page under BOOKINGS. This link can be accessed now but bookings cannot be made until October 20th at 7.00am. Please logon to the portal and read the instructions on the page in the meantime.

TO MAKE A BOOKING:

1. Click on BOOKINGS
2. Click on COURSE CONFIRMATION
3. Click on Make Appointments Wizard Automatically
4. Select the child you wish to book for
5. Select the date and time
6. Select a mentor
7. Click on continue
8. Click on make booking

FURTHER HELP:
If for any reason you cannot make your booking on-line please contact the College office on 5277 1177 and they can make the booking on your behalf, or provide you with your portal logon details.

TO ACCESS THE PARENT PORTAL:
Visit our external web page at www.whc.vic.edu.au and click the Parent Portal button
OR Save this URL in your Favourites:

MORGAN GROSSMAN
Year 12 student Morgan Grossman has always had an interest in photography, and last year at the start of her VCE studies here at Western Heights College, she realised that this interest was turning into a passion which she could see as a future career pathway.

This passion has seen Morgan excel not only in Studio Arts here at school, but in many other arenas as well. Morgan has recently won two Instagram photography competitions, one judged by Geelong Mayor Darren “Mr. Paparazzi” Lyons.

Also, with the encouragement of her Food Technology teacher, Morgan entered and won the Cambridge VCE Checkpoints Photography Competition. As a result of this win, Morgan’s winning photograph will grace the cover of the 2015 Cambridge VCE Checkpoints Food Technology book, a resource used by many VCE students and teachers state-wide.

Morgan has recently entered two more photography competitions; one for the City of Greater Geelong annual calendar, the other the Deakin University ‘Top Shots’ competition, which is open to VCE students state-wide. We look forward to hearing the results of these competitions … watch this space!

Morgan cites a combination of her mum’s artistic streak, and inspiration and encouragement from WHC teachers Glen Smith and Fiona Hergstrom as being invaluable to her photography ambitions.

Next year Morgan intends to study visual merchandising at the Gordon TAFE; then a course in Graphic Design, with the eventual goal of a career in photography.

We wish you all the best for your future Morgan!

Ms Kerrie Sirotich
Quamby Library

YEAR 12 CHANGE OF PREFERENCE:
A reminder change of preference for VTAC applications is coming up from 24 November to 22 December.
The following institutions are offering sessions to Year 12 students:

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY CHANGE OF PREFERENCE TIME IS COMING
During Change of Preference (24 November – 22 December), our Future Students team will be on hand to help you and your students look at all the options available. VU offers flexible entry through pathway programs such as the Diploma into Degree, Foundation Studies, Pathways from Diplomas and guaranteed entry from VETiS. We are a dual-sector university offering a broad range of TAFE programs as well as higher education degrees; students can pathway from certificates and diplomas to degree programs.

During the Change of Preference period, our team can help your students take the next step. We will be offering: one-on-one appointments with a course coach, a phone hotline, online chat and a Change of Preference Expo at Footscray Park Campus.

VU can help your students achieve success on their own terms. We can support them throughout their studies so they can graduate ready for their dream job.

Learn more about our Change of Preference activities.

Deakin University Change of Preference events
CHANGE OF PREFERENCE HOTLINE OPEN
Monday 15 – Friday 19 December, 9 am – 5 pm
WALK AND TALK TOURS
Tuesday 16 December, 11 am – 1 pm Warrnambool Campus
Wednesday 17 December, 11 am – 2 pm Geelong Waurn Ponds Campus
DEAKIN INFORMATION EVENINGS
Tuesday 16 December, 5 – 7 pm Melbourne Burwood Campus
Wednesday 17 December, 5 – 7 pm Geelong Waterfront Campus
DROP-IN SESSIONS
Thursday 18 December, 3 – 7 pm Deakin on Timor, the Warrnambool City Centre and Werribee Learning Centre

Swinburne Change of Preference activities, dates and times
Monday 15 December
Year 12 students can view their VCE results and ATAR from 7am
Pathways News Continued....

Hotline 8.30am– 6pm
One-on-one appointments available from 10am– 4.30pm, Hawthorn campus
**Tuesday 16 December**
Hotline 8.30am– 6pm
One-on-one appointments available from 10am– 4.30pm, Hawthorn campus

**Wednesday 17 December**
Hotline 8.30am– 6pm
Change of Preference Expo from 11am– 3pm, Hawthorn campus

**Thursday 18 to Friday 19 December**
Hotline 8.30am– 6pm
One-on-one appointments available from 10am– 4.30pm, Hawthorn campus

**Saturday 20 to Sunday 21 December**
Hotline from 10am to 2pm, Hawthorn campus

**Monday 22 December**
Hotline 8.30am– 12 noon
One-on-one appointments available from 8am– 10am, Hawthorn campus

**LA TROBE - CHANGE OF PREFERENCE**
SAVE THE DATE:
Change of preference time is busy and stressful - so we are here to help! We are running a number of events as well as Advisory days at a campus near you.

Take advantage of our upcoming extended call centre hours over the change of preference period:

Monday 15 December, 7 am - 7 pm
Tuesday 16 December, 7 am - 7 pm
Wednesday 17 December, 9 am - 5 pm
Thursday 18 December, 9 am - 5 pm
Friday 19 December, 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday 20 December, 10 am - 3 pm
Sunday 21 December, 10 am - 3 pm
Monday 22 December, Change of Preference closes 12pm
Chat to our helpful team about your future plans by requesting a real-time chat session.

**RMIT CHANGE OF PREFERENCE**
RMIT will support your students throughout the Change of Preference period through a number of services.

**Speak** to staff
03 9925 2260
15 – 19 Dec, 8.30am – 5.30pm
22 Dec, 8.30am – 12pm

**Attend** the Change of Preference Expo
Swanston Academic Building
Building 80, 445 Swanston Street, Melbourne
Wednesday 17 Dec, 11am – 3pm

**Visit** Info Corner
Corner Swanston and La Trobe Street, Melbourne
15 – 19 December, 9am – 5.30pm
22 Dec, 8.30am – 12pm
Further Info: www.rmit.edu.au/cop

**MONASH UNIVERSITY CHANGE OF PREFERENCE EXPO**
**When:** Wednesday, 17 December from 3pm to 7pm
**Where:** Building H, Caulfield Campus
**RSVP:** www.monash.edu.au/cop/

**What if students can’t make the expo?**
We encourage students to visit our COP website and find out more about Monash courses, FAQ’s and register for one-on-one appointments. Future students can also take advantage of our extended hours on our phone lines – 1800 MONASH (1800 666 274).

**LOOKING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP?**
Sarina Russo Apprenticeship Centre has the following full time apprenticeship vacancies. Contact the Apprenticeships Recruitment Coordinator in Victoria, Natasha Anczewski at AnczewskiN@sarinarusso.com.au to apply for these positions or go directly to www.Strapprentice.com.au/jobs and apply directly against the job advertised on the website.

Bricklayer – 1st Year Apprentice – Clifton Springs
Carpenter – 1st Year Apprentice – Torquay
Plasterer – 1st Year Apprentice – Geelong
Retail Traineeship – Technology – Waurn Ponds

**USE MYFUTURE FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**
There is still time to research scholarship information for your students.

myfuture is a fantastic website that aims to provide information on careers. While this website is not solely aimed at secondary school students, it does give a wonderful introduction about career pathways.

You can use the tools and resources section to search for scholarships in you and your students’ areas of interest: www.myfuture.edu.au/tools-and-resources/study-or-training-options/scholarshipsearch

**PATHWAYS TO DEAKIN**
Are your students concerned about their ATARs?
There are many pathways that can lead them to study at Deakin.

TAFE pathways are a great way for students to gain hands-on experience and credit for studying a diploma. Some diplomas now have guaranteed entry into many Deakin courses.

- MBT gives students a direct pathway to undergraduate study at Deakin.
- Deakin Learning Centres introduce school leavers and non-school leavers to university through studying diplomas and associate degrees.
  - The Werribee Learning Centre complements the Deakin Learning Centres’ style of study by offering selected courses and associate degrees at this location.

To find out more about pathways, please visit deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/study-options-and-pathways/pathways-to-deakin.
SHORT COURSES
Advanced Career Training will be delivering short courses on Saturdays in November to make the courses more accessible to students. Please see the below schedule;

Saturday 1st of November
RSA ($70) 9am – 1pm
This course incorporates the legalities and responsibilities of serving alcohol either in a bottle shop, behind a bar or at the table. The Responsible Serving of Alcohol Program aims to provide liquor service staff with the knowledge and awareness necessary to responsibly serve alcohol in licensed premises.
RSG ($70) 1.30pm – 4.30pm
This course is recommended for current employees working in gaming rooms and is also suited to those seeking work in the gaming industry. It incorporates the legalities and responsibilities of working as a gaming attendant in either a licensed club or hotel. The Responsible Serving of Gambling Program aims to provide gaming room staff with the knowledge and awareness necessary to responsibly provide gambling services in licensed premises.

This course does not include a gaming license, but does explain how to apply for one.

Saturday 8th of November
Coffee Basics ($70) 9am – 1pm
A hands-on course designed to provide introductory level espresso coffee knowledge and skills.

Saturday 15th of November
Safe Food Handling ($140), 9am – 4.30pm
This is a nationally recognised qualification which is recognised by all authorities throughout Australia. Food Hygiene awareness is a legislative requirement for all persons working in the hospitality industry or with food. This course covers: Personal hygiene practices about their health that all food handlers preparing food know and put into practice; Food handling practices to prepare and store food correctly; and Hygiene practices to ensure the food premises and equipment are clean and well maintained.

www.actraining.org.au

Tracey Jeffery
MIPS Co-ordinator
Presents:

Tuning in to Teens

A 6-week program for parents of teenagers aged 13 to 18 yrs

Tuning in to Teens is a modification of the Tuning in to Kids program for parents of adolescents. The program provides parents with a greater understanding of their teen’s emotional experiences while teaching specific skills that can assist in being supportive, empathic and staying connected with the young person.

Would you like to learn how to:

- Be better at talking and connecting with your teen?
- Be better at understanding your teen?
- Help your teen learn to manage their emotions?
- Help to prevent behaviour problems in your teen?
- Teach your teen to deal with conflict?

Adolescents with higher Emotional Intelligence:

- Are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- Have greater success with making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers
- Are more able to cope when upset or angry
- Have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- Have more stable and satisfying relationships as adults
- Have greater career success
- Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ!

Note: Places are strictly limited so registration is essential