From the Principal's Desk

The month of May always proves to be a very busy one at Swinburne Senior. By this time students have established good routines and practices and are well into their studies. At recent assemblies I have congratulated our students for the manner in which they have been working. The next month leading up to the completion of VCE Units 1 and 3 is a crucial one for all students as results in these units have a bearing on the remainder of the year.

For the vast majority of students they will continue their work into semester 2 according to the plan of study that they had established at the beginning of the year. However some students will need to review their program in light of their performance in semester 1. I believe that the very strong message to be learned from performances in semester one is that it should be very clear of what is working and what isn’t. The good news is that for 99% of students who have not been able to produce the quality of work expected there is still time left to make amends with VCE Units 2 and 4 for the last half of the year.

Every student should currently have a very clear understanding of the requirements of the VCE and the commitment needed to be successful.

Teachers at Swinburne Senior have expert knowledge of the VCE and are very experienced in delivering these programs. As always I would encourage students to discuss any issues that you may have with your teachers as they are your greatest asset.

Interim Reports May 2014
A second round of interim reports was published on Compass School Manager on Wednesday 7 May. These reports contain important information about students’ progress in each of their subjects. Students who are deemed to be at risk of not satisfactorily completing any VCE Unit 1 or 3 studies have been identified.

Any student who has been identified as being at risk should have an immediate conversation about what work needs to be completed with their teacher. For these students it is important to keep communicating with their teachers until the end of the semester.

Assistant Principal’s News
Update: DEECD Student Attitude to School Surveys
Each year we are required to ask our students to complete the Attitudes to School Survey. The responses to the survey are very important to us. When we receive the results from the DEECD in late July, we spend time in mentor groups to discuss the results and develop an action plan for areas of improvement. It is also a chance to celebrate the things that we are doing well.

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Thank you to the many parents who attended the Parent-Teacher Conferences held in at the end of last term.
If you were unable to make a booking with a particular teacher because they were fully booked or absent for the evening you may email the teacher through Compass School Manager. It was lovely to meet so many parents on the night.

**Student Absences**  
Many parents are approving student absences online using Compass School Manager. This may be done prior to or after the day. Using Compass School Manager eliminates the need to send paper notes to the school. If a medical certificate has been issued then this should be sent to the school at your earliest convenience.

*Robert Lewkowicz*  
*Assistant Principal*

**Compulsory English Practice Exam**  
All students studying Year 12 English, Literature or English Language must sit a practice exam on Tuesday 10 June at 10:00am in the school auditorium. The completion of the exam is a component of Unit 4 coursework.

Students who do two English subjects should sit the mainstream English exam on the 10 June and make arrangements with their teachers to sit their other exam in the following weeks. Students will have time within their English classes to prepare for the exam.

*Lucy Peloza*  
*Professional Improvement Team (English) Leader*

**General Achievement Test (GAT)**  
All students undertaking a VCE unit at the 3 and 4 level need to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT) on Wednesday 11 June at 9.30am (for a 10am start) at Swinburne Senior SC.

The GAT is a three hour test of general skills over a range of areas. Though the results do not count directly towards students’ scores, they provide an important ‘safety net’ and are used in the moderation of students’ results. Students need to bring a pen, pencil and eraser (for the multiple choice questions). Students must leave their bags and mobile phones in their locker. Students are required to stay for the full three hour duration of the exam.

Past GAT exam papers and information can be found on the VCAA website.

Please contact the VCE Manager at Swinburne if you have any concerns or questions regarding the GAT.

*Hugh Glenn*  
*VCE Manager*

**SSSC Careers Information Evening**  
On Thursday 19 June we will be running our annual Careers Information Evening. Starting at 6:00pm in the school Auditorium, the night will give students of Year 11 and 12 and their parents/guardians the chance to be informed about:

- What’s involved in the process for applying to University and TAFE through VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre)
- How to apply for the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) and Scholarships
- Pathways that are available between the University and TAFE systems

There will be representatives from 15 Universities and TAFEs present on the night and they will be more than happy to meet with students to answer any questions about courses, institutions, entry requirements and more!

For more information please visit the school website [www.sssc.vic.edu.au](http://www.sssc.vic.edu.au) or contact Jackie Love [love.jacqueline.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:love.jacqueline.a@edumail.vic.gov.au) or 8862 4400.

*Jackie Love and Annelyn Bolle*  
*Careers Advisors*

**College Play**  
Bookings for this professional theatrical production by our Year 12 Theatre Studies students under the direction of Mark Bailey can be made at the General Office on 8862 4400.

All pre-booked tickets must be paid for at the box office by no later than 6.40pm on the night, or else they will be made available for general sale.

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**After Dinner**  
*Cheap Seats Theatre presents*

*By Andrew Bovell*

*Menu*

- May 20–24
- May 24
- 3pm

*Adults: S12
*Students: S8
*Conc: S8*

*Acad Themes: Language; Sex* Reference*

The Cottage, Cnr William and George Sts, Hawthorn.  
Ticket Sales: 03 8862 4400*
As the last weeks of the semester play out the workload builds and the pressure can seem overwhelming at times. Unfortunately there is no way around this, the course must be taught before it can be assessed and for all involved - students, teachers and families this means a period of intense effort. How students cope with this pressure will, in part, determine the outcome and now, more than ever, it is important to model the behaviours we want to see in our student cohort.

John Hattie, Professor of Education and Director of the Melbourne Education Research Institute at the University of Melbourne, on whose research the college bases its approach to teaching and learning, provides a neat set of guidelines that can help students organise themselves to complete the semester. Termed the ‘three feedback questions’, this tool can be used in each class throughout the semester but can also be useful in helping students organise themselves to complete the semester’s work.

For each subject students ask themselves:
1. Where am I going? What are my goals?
2. How am I going? What progress is being made towards the goal?
3. Where to next? What activities need to be undertaken to make better progress?

The answers to the feedback questions help students to see the place of individual tasks within the bigger picture of the unit and the progress that has already been made. Their answer to each and in particular to question three allows students to set out a plan for completing each subject in an organised manner.

Once students have a sense of where they have been, what needs to be done and how long each task will take they should create a daily planner with specific homework tasks listed for each period of study. When they have completed each planned hour or a task is complete students should reward themselves with the pleasure of crossing it off the list. Over the days the list will get shorter and students will come to value this organised approach.

Sometimes students take false comfort in catastrophising their situation. Such behaviour is not helpful. Family members can help their young person by grounding them in reality. Yes the workload is large but it is achievable and there is certainty in the satisfaction they will have knowing they got through it.

Jo Flack
School Improvement Manager

Change of Personal Details
We are currently working through the process of updating our database with personal details. If you have changed any information please forward the changes to our General Office staff, Florence, Gail or Judy.

As this newsletter is distributed electronically via email it is important that we have your current email address recorded accurately.

Boroondara Youth Services Open Day
The year 12 VCAL class of 2014 was invited to complete a community arts project at the Boroondara Youth Services new premises at the Hawthorn Town Hall. Each student created a panel to be displayed at the Town Hall.

The opening of the Boroondara Youth Services took place on Wednesday 16 April. A few students were chosen to attend and display their work. James Licata and Catia Telac represented the year 12 VCAL class and spoke to guests about the artwork and the overall project. Erin Finlay and Larissa Lewis also attended and documented the event by taking photos.
The staff at Boroondara Youth Services were very grateful for the work that the year 12 VCAL class had completed. Everyone in the project was really pleased with the results. This work has been beneficial to the Boroondara Youth Services because it reflects current youth experiences and thoughts. Overall it was a fun and interesting project for the class to participate in. It was a pleasure doing something for the community and we are grateful for the opportunity that the Boroondara Youth Services provided for us.

Larissa and Erin
Senior VCAL

Structured Workplace Learning for Year 12 Industry & Enterprise
I would like to congratulate the following student’s on their successful work experience placements. I would also like to thank the employers who agreed to supervise them and the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster for organising some of the placements.

Kiron Bala (Sports Management)
The Sandringham AFL Dragons
Monique Bordignon (Event Management)
The City of Port Phillip
Sean Camilleri (Advertising)
Powerfront Advertising
Ashley Deringowski (Human Resources)
Boroondara City Council
Sally Hindmarsh (Child Care)
Andrew Hunter-Graham (Aerial Photography)
Cloud 9
Savannah James (Animal Studies)
Monash Vet Clinic
Alex Papaionnou (Animal Studies)
Diggiddy Doggy Day Care
Liam Tesselaar (hospitality)
Chosen Bean Café
Meg Tilly (Retail)
Safeway’
Chloe Vunicin (Retail)
‘Vintage Rouge’
Natalie Sesio (Fitness)
Genesis Fitness – Camberwell

Kristina Wong (Fashion Retail)
Supre
George Manja (Sports Retail)
Bladeworx – Glenferrie Rd. Hawthorn

Belinda Alexandrovics
Industry & Enterprise Teacher

Year 12 Business Management and Industry and Enterprise students visit the Yakult factory
The best way to learn is to experience it. To study operations management and quality management as a business strategy that organisations use to get a competitive edge, we toured the Yakult factory in Dandenong. Students got to see bottles being blow moulded, mixing tanks for the health drink and a bottling assembly line in operation. They got a chance to see quality control activities, watched a video about the organisation and its history and sampled the Yakult drink.

The excursion is an important part of the Year 12 curriculum where students study an organisation in detail regarding its operations management and process of converting inputs through a transformation process into outputs. They also study strategies used by organisations to create efficiencies - the layout, materials management, quality management and the use of technology.
It was interesting to see how advanced technology enabled Yakut to produce 350,000 bottles of Yakult drink a day with just 4 people on the floor at any point in time. This could easily be doubled if demand for the product required it!

Gita Menon  
Business Management Teacher

**Year 11 Business Management students feed the school on Market Day**

The Year 11 Business Management students planned for and implemented a small business venture as part of Unit-Small Business Planning. They worked in teams and prepared formal business plans, marketed their stalls through posters around the school and made announcements, before implementing the venture on April 29 at school (Market Day).

Plan A was to set up in the school grounds but Melbourne weather decided against it. It poured rain and Plan B had to be quickly put into action. We had 10 stalls in the Common Room, ground floor corridors and on the terrace under cover. A variety of hot and cold foods were on offer and comprised Mexican nachos, pizza rolls, sausage sizzle, popcorn, cold drinks, iced coffee, specialty cupcakes, giant cookies, fairy bread, chocolate fountain, brownies fairy floss.

Some stalls sold out, some did not, some made a profit, some did not. All in all, it was an action packed and fun lunchtime accompanied by music by a selection of our music students. We even had some parents come in to support their kids!

Gita Menon  
Business Management Teacher

**Paul Krause has been selected to train with the UBS Finance Academy.**

The UBS Finance Academy provides leadership in banking education with a particular focus on Year 11 senior secondary students. Paul showed an interest and worked on his application along with his Business Management teacher, Gita Menon. He has been successful and will now join 49 other students from Victoria, ACT and NSW for a week’s training during the July school break in Dunmore Lang College, Macquarie University, Sydney.

Flights and accommodation will be paid for by the UBS Academy. The program has been designed to be a creative mix of theory, industry exposure, field visits, teamwork and fun. Well done Paul and good luck for this once in a lifetime opportunity!

Gita Menon  
Business Management Teacher

**Girls’ Soccer Team 2014**

The Swinburne Girls’ Soccer team had not played together before match day. In fact, some had never played the game at all and half didn’t know they were playing until that morning when they were cajoled into filling spots that others had left open. But none of the other teams knew this, so we fronted with a brave face against our first opponent, Doncaster SC. We soon found out that despite an absence of any training or preparation, we were actually a really good team. After plenty of shots at both ends and a valiant effort from our girls, it was 0-0 at full time. In the penalty shoot-out, the girls bravely stepped up to take each strike while Harriet Pickersgill proved herself to be a fantastic goalkeeper. It was nail-biting stuff but after seven penalties each, it was Doncaster’s win.

After a short rest we took on Canterbury, probably the best team in the competition. Sacha Allen kept spirits high as she had done all day and preparing for kick off, we let loose our team chant, “Staunch!”

Nicole Wilkinson led the charge up front, carving up defenders like cheese. At the other end, Timmily Ruiz was indispensable in defence, stopping countless attacks and earning Most Valuable Player of the day. We weren’t strong enough to fend off all attacks but at the end of the day we were happy with our efforts. The entire Swinnie team proved they were big on both talent and heart and they gave their all. Congratulations on a fine performance girls!

Matt Simmons  
Coach