From the Principal’s Desk

We are now into the fifth week of this term and students have well and truly settled back into their work for semester two.

Many parents made the most of the opportunity at last Wednesday’s parent-teacher session to talk to their child’s teachers about their progress and to make plans to finish the semester on a good note. The next progress report will be published on Compass School Manager towards the end of this term.

Victorian State Schools Spectacular 2015

Congratulations to Julian Dods who has been cast in this year’s Victorian State Schools Spectacular. The Spectacular is presented in two performances at Hisense Arena on Saturday 12 September, followed by a 90-minute broadcast of highlights on Channel 7 later this year. There will be over 3000 Victorian government school students showcased within this year’s production in the performance disciplines of music, song, dance and circus arts.

Julian is a commendable ambassador for Swinburne Senior and I wish him all the best for this remarkable event.

Attendance and Punctuality

All parents/guardians and students are reminded that regular and punctual attendance at school is critical in achieving the outcomes in VCE, VCAL and VET. In particular, each VCE study taught over a semester, requires at least 50 hours of face to face classroom instruction time for students to be eligible for a satisfactory result. I am happy to discuss any concerns that you may have about attendance at any time.

Change of Personal Details

May I remind those families whose personal details may have changed to inform the general office of their new details. Please note that this applies to changes to email addresses as well!

The Formal

Leonda by the River proved to be a wonderful venue for this year’s formal. Just over 370 students and guests attended this event along with a large contingent of staff. Everyone seemed to enjoy each others’ company with plenty of conversation over the meal and great dancing to a broad range of music. Congratulations to the organising committee comprising members of the SRC and their manager, Glenn Morris. A special thank you goes to Gail Bailey for doing such a splendid job with ticketing and table organisation. Photos of the formal can be viewed on the school website.

Michael O’Brien
Principal

Assistant Principal’s News

Semester two is well underway with students busy completing assessed coursework.

Interim reports have been now posted on Compass School Manager. The reports provide parents and students a snapshot of academic progress and offer suggestions for improvement, where needed. Parents and students should note that we offer study support to all students during school time who need extra help in their studies.

The VCE Parent Teacher Interviews this week offered an opportunity for teachers to meet with parents and students. It was a timely opportunity for students to take stock of how well they are performing and to determine how well this aligns with their further study aspirations.

Tracy McCallum, our Careers and Pathways Advisor, has been working with Year 12 students to prepare them for completing VTAC applications for places at tertiary institutions in 2016.

Students, guests and staff dressed to impress at this year’s school formal at Leonda by the River. Just over 370 people attended this event and they enjoyed the photo
booth, great music, lots of dancing and a wonderful three course meal. I would like to thank everyone who participated with such great spirit and making the evening such a great success.

All photographs taken on the night are accessible on the Happy Medium website. www.happymedium.com.au or through the college website.

Rob Lewkowicz
Assistant Principal

From the Year 12 Manager's Desk

Term 3 is flying by. For many Year 12 students they are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel as their Unit 4 studies start to begin their final Outcomes. This is a time where students cannot afford to be complacent. This is a time when students should be pushing themselves to the finish line.

I have been thoroughly impressed with the work ethic of many of our Year 12 Students. The students who are on top of their studies are attending consistently and utilising coursework to challenge their thinking and skills. However, there are some students who are not reaching their full potential at this stage. I would like these particular students to reflect on their practices and make the necessary changes to their approaches to their school work to ensure that they can achieve personal success before the end of the school year. Some students are putting their VCE or VCAL at risk because they are making the wrong choices and not applying themselves in the right manner.

I look forward to seeing the many hours of hard work that our students put into their studies showcased in their upcoming SACs and Assessments. I can’t wait to see all the work on display at our annual Arts Show. I recommend all members of the Swinburne Senior Secondary College community to attend the event, or view the students’ work at our Open Day on Sunday 18 October.

I wish everybody the best of luck for the rest of Term 3.

Joel Guye
Year 12 Student Manager

VETIS News

I would like to congratulate all our VETIS students who have managed to combine a VET study with their VCE/VCAL program to this point. Many attend programs off campus, with the added challenge to be in class and to be punctual during the winter months and may be the only Swinburne Senior SC student in the class.

VETIS students are more than two thirds of the way through their programs. Students have about 10 classes left for the year.

So now it is time to concentrate on being in class, catching up on work and completing all assessment tasks. Students should have a chat with their trainer to make sure they understand what they need to be doing to keep up to date with their work.

Any student still to complete a work placement will need to see me to arrange this if they don’t already have one organised. Work placement opportunities have assisted some of our students to gain meaningful part time employment, which is a bonus gained from successful participation in VET.
Enrolment into a VETiS Program for 2016 is now open. Any students wishing to continue in their current VET study or enrol in a new VET study can see me any time to complete a 2016 enrolment. First round opportunities for 2016 enrolments will close 16 October and second round opportunities will not open until 2 November.

Gail Bailey
VETiS Manager

Visual Arts-Past Students Return
Some of our current students studying visual arts participated in a forum with six past students on Wednesday

The forum explored the issues that students may experience in the transition from secondary to tertiary studies. Each of the six past students gave an insight into the challenges that they faced and detailed the strategies that they used to successfully overcome these.

Our current students were enthralled by the conversation and the insight that was provided into becoming a successful artist.

Thank you to Belinda Sorrentino, Jack Rowe, Charles Richardson, Jess Gall, Miranda Darrer and Nicole Thompson for giving up their time and being so inspirational.

Neil Barker and Matt Simmons
Studio Arts Teachers

Model United Nations General Assembly
Two members of the VCE French class, Hannah Schaub and Lyndon Bramwells, and our teacher, Jackie Love attended a French United Nations conference held at The University of Melbourne on the 24th July.

The conference was set up as a model of the United Nations’ General Assembly, where students from various schools act as ambassadors for different French speaking countries. This year the topic was ‘Refugees’ and throughout the conference the countries negotiate the best outcome for the issue, and therefore finalise a sound resolution.

As it was conducted in French, we found the conference beneficial for our listening skills. Overall we found it an interesting and different way to be exposed not only to French, but global issues as well. All three of us enjoyed this day thoroughly.

Hannah Schaub
VCE French Student

Industry and Enterprise and Business Management students learn from industry
This month, the focus of Industry and Enterprise was to expose students to the pressures and opportunities faced by Australian industry in relation to international competition. As part of this topic, they visited the Port of Melbourne on a guided tour of the facilities and participated in an interactive activity to understand the direction and composition of Australia’s trade. They got a chance to climb up the Port’s control tower and witness the operation of steering a container ship through the Port using tug boats. The bird’s eye view they got was also a once in a lifetime opportunity.
Business Management students were introduced to the complex topic of industrial relations through an enlightening guest lecture by Kara Hadgraft from the Trade Halls Council of Victoria. Kara took them through the historical perspective and they were pleasantly surprised that Victoria was the first in the world to introduce the concept of an eight hour day back in the 19th century as a result of industrial action when the University of Melbourne was being built. They tried their hand at enterprise bargaining through role plays and understood the role of unions.

The purpose of these excursions and incursions is for students to interact with industry and learn the subjects in a broader context.

Gita Menon
Business Management and Industry and Enterprise Teacher

Transparency

Morning
I stood staring up at the model plastered on the billboard overlooking the square, her happy-go-lucky smile looks painted onto her face. The girl was wearing the same grey jumpsuit everyone wears. I looked at my reflection in the shop window and smiled. My long pink hair, a badge of honour. Looking at a crowd of people you could easily spot me, the flamboyant splash of colour among the grey and black.

Afternoon
The sound of the train pulling in jolted me from my imagination. I stepped into the carriage and as usual, the rest of the commuters stare and whisper. A child ran past me, pushing his flaming red hair from his face and tripping over his shoe laces as his plain dressed mother ran after him. We are the outcasts, that little boy and I. Us and the hundreds of other outcasts in this city. We are the ones that dare to step out of line, instead of those Corporate Carbon Copies that fill this city.

I opened my front door and flopped down onto my bed. The sound of the radio blaring keeping me awake.

“Different means Degenerate, and Degenerate means Depraved”.

That is the sound that permeates my house, and every other house in this city. Constantly. We’re constantly being watched, listened to. Our society has become a board game for the Corporates.

Night
I lay in bed, staring at the ceiling.

“Different means Depraved and Depraved means Degenerate" repeats inside and outside my head. The light of the street lamp bounces off the picture on my bedside table, the picture of my mother. I watched, as day after day she faded away. I watched as her once beautiful pink hair turned to black and her skin became translucent. I watched as she became reserved and distant, she’d lost her spark. I remember the day before she lost her speech, her words slowly fell out of her mouth.

“You are big and important” I said to myself.

Morning
The city sounds so empty, since the Corporates took over. The small amount of the population that hasn’t lost their sense of speech, or sense of self, usually keep quiet or whisper hurriedly to each other. Each section of the population keeps to themselves. There are the Outcasts and the Corporates. Two separate breeds of people. I belong to the first category, my vibrant hair giving that away. We were all born with our own individuality, but as our city changed, so did we. As we modernised, and gained technology and our desire for things grew, our individuality decreased. We evolved to become drones, clones of each other. The minority keeping their spark as they grow up.
Afternoon
A loud series of bangs on my front door awoke me from my nap. “Raids...” I said to myself as I slowly lowered myself down onto the floor with my hands over my head. This is the third one this week I thought, while the soldiers dressed in black metal suits rummaged through my things.

“Make sure you search this one good, it’s an Outcast” said the loud voice of the Commander who was still standing in my door way. I didn’t dare look up, I kept my head on the floor. They took a stack of newspapers from the 1990s and a packet of skittles. All things they deem to be, ‘contraband’.

Night
I lay awake listening to the record that goes around and around through every household.

“Different means Degenerate, and Degenerate means Depraved”.

They repeat this to make sure it’s ingrained in everyone’s Outcast or Corporate mind. They play it twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. There is never any silence anymore. Never. I dream of sitting in a quiet room with my mother in complete silence. Not a sound being made. Silence. As I began to drift off to sleep, my mind was assaulted by whoever controls the god awful noise, turning the radio up.

Night: Part 2
As I was drifting off to sleep, I dreamt of everyone standing on the conveyer belt which has become our society. We all just float by, no identity, we are all just another number. I dreamt of being chased through the city and I run into a dead end, soldiers closing in on me and everything feels like it’s in fast forward. Suddenly I’m drowning in all the sound and I wake up. I am covered in sweat.

Morning
The city was quiet this early with no one rushing past. No cars were zooming through the streets. It felt like I was alone in the world. I always roam the city this early when I’m stressed, or scared. It’s started to happen.

Afternoon
I stared at myself in the bathroom mirror and the tears just kept coming. My hair was starting to change. I tugged at the murky pink tendrils, streaks of black littering my head. My scream pierced the almost silent air as my fist hit the glass, shattering the mirror.

As I cradled my wounded hand, my eyes flitted in and out of focus. The last thought I had as my head hit the floor was the repetitive sound of “Different means depraved, and Depraved means Degenerate” playing in the background.

Morning
I could barely open my eyes. I had passed out on the bathroom floor and my whole body ached. The events of the previous day came flooding back to me, the transition had started. I was losing it. Maybe it had all just been a bad dream and I’d wake up this morning as I usually would. Vibrant pink and all.

As I pushed myself up onto my hands, a piercing pain shot through my arm. I looked down at my bandaged, bloody hand. Fear coursed through me. Pushing myself up on the bathroom sink, I stared into the shattered mirror and a different face was looking back. My skin, although its usual shade, looked as though I was staring at myself through a veil. My skin was slightly blurred, but my facial features were as sharp as ever. My piercing blue eyes stared back at me.

Evening
Hours seem to pass like days. I sat in my bathroom humming to myself. I was trying to keep track of my ability to speak. My movements had become robotic. My once bright hair turned dark, and coarse. The transition isn’t as painful as I thought it would be. I imagined screaming with pain, writhing on the floor screaming until all the words fell out of my mouth, but it’s not like that at all.

Night
I woke up on my bathroom floor again and the first thing I did was look down at my hands. I could only just see them. The almost transparent skin pulled taught over my healing fist. Picking up a mirror fragment that was still laying on the ground I checked my face. My eyes, once piercingly blue, are now black. The spark in my eyes has gone. I opened my mouth the gasp, as I stared back at this unrecognisable face, but no sound came out.

It’s done.

Eve Wilson
Year 12 Literature

Hattie Action Research Project (HARP) 2015
Improving teaching and learning through professional learning is an important focus of teachers at Swinburne. Research shows that interrogating practice is the most important technique for sustained improvement. In addition to our end of year professional learning program, subject association conferences and one off professional development activities all teachers are involved in action research projects. This year teachers have chosen one of three project teams based on the work of Professor John...
Hattie whose research has revealed that teaching techniques with an effect size of >0.40 demonstrate improved results beyond that which would be expected over one year. Teams meet several times per term and are led by Professional Improvement team leaders.

**What is Action Research?**
Is a continuous learning cycle, which involves:
- Reflecting and selecting an area of focus
- Planning, implementing and acting on the plan
- Observing and collecting data
- Organising and analysing data
- Reflecting, re-planning and taking new action and Starting the spiral again.

Action Research is a mixing of internally gathered information and externally researched information. It involves the study of on-site school and student data and the study of related literature.

The following topics are the focus for investigation in 2015:
1. Teaching study skills (effect size 0.63) and Teaching learning strategies (effect size 0.6)
2. Providing worked examples (effect size 0.57)
3. Self-reported grades/student expectations (effect size 1.44)

Our action research process is proceeding as follows:

![Action Research Cycle 2015](image)

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments please contact me at school.

*Jo Flack*
*School Improvement Manager*