From the Principal’s Desk

There is no doubt that working in a senior school environment at this time of year provides a number of challenges for students, parents and teachers.

The end of semester one is quickly approaching with all work for all students due on Friday 3 June. At the time writing this is a mere three weeks away. I’m pleased to report that the vast majority of students are well in control as they are on track to meet our attendance requirements and produce the quantity and quality of work to meet the outcomes of their various units.

For some students the realization that the end of semester is upon us will mean that they need to “burn the midnight oil” to polish up their coursework and folios so that they meet their course requirements. For others the simple reality of the situation may mean that they have run out of time to produce any meaningful work that meets the minimum requirements. For students in these categories I sincerely hope that lessons have been learnt along the way over the course of this year and that any shortcomings with their schooling are addressed in the remainder of the year.

Individual situations and circumstances of some students have required teachers to devote considerable additional time over the past few weeks. The additional workload of students and teachers can prove to be quite stressful and I implore everyone to consider each other’s health and well-being. Yes, learning requires considerable effort but the people who manage workload stress the best have a balance to their lives. So I encourage everyone to put time into planning your work and ensure that there is some downtime to spend on yourselves.

End of Semester 1 Timeline

Friday 3 June: Last day for submission of all VCE Units 1 and 3 work.

Monday 6 June: Mid-year practice exam for all students undertaking Year 12 (VCE Units 3/4 English, Literature, English Language and EAL) at 10:00am. No classes for Year 11 students unless they are undertaking one of the English studies.

Tuesday 7 June: General Achievement Test (GAT) at 10:00am for all students undertaking a VCE Unit 3/4 study. No classes for students.

Thursday 9 June: Student Free Day (Curriculum)
Friday 10 June: Student Free Day (Report Writing)
Monday 13 June: Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday

Semester 2
Tuesday 14 June: Semester 2 begins for all students

All students will begin work for all VCE Unit 2 (Year 11) studies, VCE Unit 4 (Year 12) studies and all VCAL units on Tuesday 14 June.

It is anticipated that the above arrangement will give students a clear break between semester one and two. It will also allow those students who have been granted Special Provision an opportunity to come in to school during the week outlined above to complete outstanding work.

If you require further clarification, please contact me on 8862 4400.

Michael O’Brien
Principal
Assistant Principal’s News

Student Absences
Parents/guardians should use Compass School Manager to approve their child’s absence which can be done in advance of or on the day of the absence. Explanations for absences when your child has missed a SAC should also be forwarded to the College.

Robert Lewkowicz
Assistant Principal

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 Tuesday 7 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

From the Year 12 Manager’s Office
Term 2 is well underway with only three weeks of Unit 3 classes left. I would like to remind Year 12 students and parents/guardians that all work for Unit 3 is due by Friday 3 of June. Students are expected to have an attendance percentage above 85% by this date and have redeemed any classes that they have missed throughout the semester to meet this requirement. It is very important that students who have fallen behind in their subjects create a plan to ensure that they can satisfy the outcomes for all of their subjects.

Year 12 students may need to:
1. Speak with each of their teachers regarding their progress in their subjects.
2. Manage their spare time effectively by allocating time to complete the required coursework for their subjects.
3. Shift their focus to their studies for this period of time and reduce their social commitments if needed.

I would like to see Year 12 students change their perception of coursework. While students are required to demonstrate 50 hours of coursework to satisfy Unit 3, they should also see coursework as an opportunity to practice and refine their skills, knowledge and to experiment with new techniques and approaches they have learnt in class.

I have been impressed by many of our students so far in 2016. They have shown great persistence in the face of a challenging and demanding year of schooling. I wish students all the best as they continue to progress towards the achievement of the goals that they have set for themselves at the beginning of the year.

Joel Guye
Year 12 Manager

Experiencial Learning Is The Best Form Of Learning
The Year 12 Business Management students visited the McDonalds Head Office and their state of the art training centre in Collingwood where they were introduced to their business model, strategic plans, organizational structure, corporate culture and management functions.

The students are studying the internal business environment of large scale organisations this semester. They had the opportunity to hear about the way Maccas is organised into management functions, the roles of the different managers, their growth up the organisation chart and how they acquired the skills required to be where they were.

It was an interesting exercise in helping students understand how the theory they had learnt was being applied in a real life organisation. The hospitality was typical of the industry as they fed us, serviced our (educational) needs and left us satisfied!
Year 11 Business Management Students Experience Running Their Small Businesses

Market Day at school is always an interesting experience. The hustle and bustle before the event with posters of the different stalls adorning the walls of the school, announcements by students of what they have to offer and the planning that they undertake before they implement their business on Market Day.

This year Melbourne weather smiled on us, it was sunny and the decorated basketball court area with the various stalls drew the school community out. There were nachos, croissants, cookies and brownies, cup-cakes, donuts, pizza, drinks and the sausage sizzle to whet the appetites as well as customised tote bags and an Op shop to add variety to the day. 10% of the proceeds from the Op Shop were donated to the Lighthouse Foundation so the students were being socially responsible too. Many stalls offered vegan options in keeping with the vibe of the school. Students then presented their learning experiences in class in a post event evaluation exercise and the comments heard were enlightening……

“I actually made money!”
“I wish I had planned better”
“I wish I had chosen my business partner more carefully”
“I wish I had brought less stock”

All in all, Market Day proved to be a learning experience where enterprise skills were gained.

Gita Menon
Business Management Teacher

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.

Gail, Florence and Judy
General Office
Practice Exams Year 12
Students and parents should be aware that there are compulsory practice mid-year exams for the following English subjects:

English
Literature
English Language

These exams are a fantastic opportunity for students to experience exam conditions and expectations in the lead up to the real thing at the end of the year. The practice exams will be taking place in the College auditorium at 10:00 am on Monday the 6 June. Students should speak to their subject teachers about materials permitted in their exam.

If a student is enrolled in multiple English subjects or have a VET they can speak to their English teachers about alternative arrangements.

Danni Bunker
English PITL