

From the Principal's Desk

With only three weeks to go before the end of term, it is clear that for our Year 12 students, the finishing line is in sight. As you may gather from other articles in this newsletter, the next three weeks of this term are incredibly important for all students.



For students enrolled in VCE Unit 4 studies there is the realization that they are entering into the final stages of their coursework. This can mean that students feel some sense of relief and achievement that their formal secondary schooling is coming to an end. More importantly they should be thinking about pulling everything that they have learned throughout the year together and in many ways, becoming experts in their particular studies.

Making good use of their time over the next weeks will be incredibly important as students move into the revision period where they will be expected to show that they have learnt how to learn. Teachers will be devoting a significant amount of time to working with their students to prepare them for the upcoming external examinations in November. It is a great time for students to make the decision to attend on Wednesdays in order to maximize the access to their teachers' expertise.

Personally speaking, I am really looking forward to seeing just how far our Year 12 students have come this year. I understand that we have a wonderful group of highly talented young people and I expect them to perform well in their examinations. Just how well will depend on the commitment that is made by each student to producing their very best.

2017 Student Attitudes To School Survey

The results of this year's Student Attitudes to School Survey are in and provide a great insight into students' experiences and feelings towards themselves, teachers and the school in general.

The data presented below refers to our students only. Comparative data to Year 11 and 12 government schools will be forthcoming in term 4.

A positive response represents students who Agreed or Strongly Agreed, on balance, with the set of questions related to the element.

Excellence in teaching and learning

<i>Effective teaching time</i>		<i>Differentiated learning</i>	
Positive	71%	Positive	62%
Neutral	23%	Neutral	25%
Negative	6%	Negative	13%

<i>Stimulated learning</i>		<i>Classroom behaviour</i>	
Positive	69%	Positive	67%
Neutral	25%	Neutral	27%
Negative	6%	Negative	7%

<i>High expectations for success</i>		<i>Effort</i>	
Positive	81%	Positive	73%
Neutral	17%	Neutral	23%
Negative	3%	Negative	4%

<i>Teacher concern</i>		<i>Learning confidence</i>	
Positive	61%	Positive	65%
Neutral	27%	Neutral	25%
Negative	12%	Negative	10%

<i>Resilience</i>		<i>Motivation and interest</i>	
Positive	61%	Positive	78%
Neutral	27%	Neutral	19%
Negative	12%	Negative	3%

<i>Self-regulation & goal setting</i>		<i>Attitudes to attendance</i>	
Positive	66%	Positive	82%
Neutral	26%	Neutral	14%
Negative	7%	Negative	4%

Positive climate for learning

<i>Student Connectedness</i>		<i>Student voice and agency</i>	
Positive	73%	Positive	65%
Neutral	20%	Neutral	27%
Negative	7%	Negative	8%

<i>School stage transitions</i>		<i>School stage transitions (new students)</i>	
Positive	69%	Positive	70%
Neutral	24%	Neutral	21%
Negative	7%	Negative	9%

<i>Advocate at school</i>		<i>Managing bullying</i>	
Positive	75%	Positive	76%
Neutral	20%	Neutral	21%
Negative	5%	Negative	2%

<i>Respect for diversity</i>		<i>Non-experience of bullying</i>	
Positive	77%	Positive	95%
Neutral	20%	Neutral	0%
Negative	3%	Negative	5%

Assistant Principal's News

Semester Two is well underway with students completing many SACs (School Assessed Coursework) and, for the folio subjects, substantial work on their SATs (School Assessed Task).

The Parent Teacher Interviews that were held a few weeks ago, offered an opportunity for teachers to meet with parents and take account of where students are at and how well this aligns with their further study aspirations moving forward.

Tracy McCallum, our Pathways/Careers Advisor, has been working hard looking at 2017 pathways for our students, including applications through VTAC for university degrees and TAFE diploma courses. The Careers Expo late last semester was a successful event where a number of university staff attended and outlined course programs and requirements for entry.

A reminder to all new prospective students for 2018, our College Information Evening is on Tuesday 5 September at 6pm in the Auditorium. All welcome

Robert Lewkowicz
Assistant Principal

From the Year 12 Manager's Office

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 when 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.

Year 12 students should be:

- Checking in with their teachers to ensure that they are up to date with their coursework
- Making lists of essential tasks that need to be completed each day
- Redeeming any missed classes
- Working positively with other students during this time of high stress

- Looking out for their friends and supporting them to achieve their goals

I look forward to seeing the many hours of hard work that our students put into their studies showcased in their final upcoming SACs and Assessments. I can't wait to see all the work on display at our annual Arts Show next term. I recommend all members of the Swinburne Senior Secondary College community to attend the event. Furthermore, if you know of a student who is interested in coming to Swinburne Senior in 2018, tell them to attend the Information Evening on Tuesday 5 September, the Arts Show (Friday 20 October) and to book a school tour.

Enrolment interviews will be taking place mostly during Term 4.

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

Joel Guye
Year 12 Manager

STOP. One Punch Can Kill

Founder of STOP. One Punch Can Kill, Caterina Politi visited Swinburne last week to present a powerful presentation on the effects of one punch violence to the senior and intermediate VCAL classes. Her time is appreciated and her courage admired, a positive message for all students involved.



Maddie Harris
VCE Teacher
Psychology & Philosophy

As the going gets tough, perseverance is the key

With only a few weeks until the September holidays the workload is building up in all classes. The pressure is on to meet deadlines and prepare for assessment. At times like this young people can begin to doubt themselves and worry about whether they are up to the task. The good news, to use a sporting analogy, is that although the game can be tough as we move through the third quarter and head towards the finals, everyone here at Swinburne is on

the same team, teachers and students are all going for personal bests. Over the next few weeks as teachers continue to develop knowledge and skills we also act as coaches, trainers, therapists and cheerleaders as we prepare our students to shine.

We know that every student is different and that what motivates one may not work for another. Students notice that teachers employ different techniques for each student, carefully assessing students' form in terms of preferred approaches to work and the type of learning, revision and consolidation of skills that best suits each individual. Some respond best to drill and repetition, others need structured notes whilst many enjoy the challenge of practice exam questions or a creative approach where they are take the opportunity to synthesise and apply knowledge across different areas of study or even different subjects. What is important is that students know that teachers will do everything to find the key to each student's learning. But while teachers are on the team, they are not the players, our job is to send students on to the field match ready. What is it that students need to know as they train?

Research tells us that the greatest attribute that students can employ at this time is perseverance. Yes, it can be tough and the game does not always go according to plan but perseverance will develop skills to see it through. The importance of deliberate practice cannot be underestimated. As the slogan says, just do it. And do it again, and do it until it can be done without thought then add the next level of complexity and do it again. Expertise in anything is a process.

Angela Duckworth, author of the highly acclaimed text 'Grit' explains the process in this highly engaging podcast: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/the-power-of-grit-why-hard-work-is-more-important-than-talent/7641876>

And just in case you think that all a young person needs is grit, be aware that we all possess grit at different levels. You may like to test yours by doing Duckworth's grit test online: <http://angeladuckworth.com/grit-scale/> The results serve as a point of reflection rather than anything else but this reflection can be helpful in preparing your young person for their personal best.

Over the next few weeks some students will find themselves flagging. It is the parents' role to cut those half time oranges and provide the sustenance they need to gather the energy to finish the game in the best possible form. If you have any questions about how to help your young person, ask his or her mentor.

Jo Flack
School Improvement Manager

A Pitch Too High for the Human Ear

The silent tick-tocking of the clock shifts the numbers from 1.59 to 2.00am, their red outline of illumination staring me down like two evil eyes in this darkness. I've always thought there was something so eerie about digital clocks, like time is so invisible that it's barely even there. I put up a fight when Andrew brought one home after work, told him I liked knowing how far the seconds had left the minute mark, even made up a story to prove its sentimentality. *My mother was a nurse, Andrew, and I spent every night in the ward watching the second hand push the minute hand, and then eventually the hour hand. You can't just try and erase my mum's memory like that.* I worried that night that something had happened, or he was with someone else. He was only half an hour late. Mum was a flight attendant. Andrew didn't care either way, so out went the beloved analogue and in went the shiny new digital.

He's pretending to sleep again. I can see his chest rise and fall in perfect synchronisation, but I'm not satisfied. Anyone can do that. I'm faking as well, but I can justify it. I'm listening out for him. Anything would do, really, even just a whisper, but most nights I give up a short while after he's left. Andrew pretends because he doesn't want me to know about the insomnia. He doesn't know that I rummage through his briefcase every night while he's out jogging with Kelly. Of course I found his medication, and after a quick google search, I knew everything.

I think about that night a lot. I wonder, had I not known he was sick, would I still feel this guilty? It plagues my mind like a swarm of thoughts hijacking my brain and they tell me that I did this. It's my fault - I pushed him away. I sobbed as quietly as I could for an hour that night, washed my face and woke the kids up for school. Bloody internet, it breeds awareness. And it's this awareness that hurts us the most, telling us things we don't necessarily need to know, showing us this dark truth that no one wants to hear. But we are hungry. Hungry for knowledge; for the future. When I was young, there was no such thing as google and we were taught what we had to know. The naive smile on my children's faces; that's what I envy. I was innocent like them before that night, but things are different now. Everything's changed. Now, we have a digital clock.

Anything, Andrew, please. I'm all ears. Nothing, as usual. Please, Andrew, just a sound even. Don't worry about the words, they can come later. I just lie here, waiting for him to reach out to me and say something he can't tell me when he knows I'm listening, but to no avail. It could be useless. Maybe he really is asleep and I'm making it all up in my head. This is something I might ask him if I knew where to begin, but I forgot a long time ago how to form proper sentences. I wonder, if he is actually awake, if he knows I'm pretending, too. If we knew how to speak to each other that's probably something we could joke about.

It's 6am and I've been brutally awoken, once again, by that damn clock. Andrew slaps it in a fiery rage, giving himself an extra 10 minutes. I wish I could just reach out to him, put my hand around his fallen rib cage and feel the radiation of his warmth. But there's the clock and there's the briefcase and although we seem so close we are miles apart. It feels only seconds ago she went off the first time, but her siren is sounding just as loudly again. She's taunting me, showing me that I am nothing and she is everything. She's much younger than I am. She knows how to speak to Andrew; knows exactly what to say and I am nothing more than a mute. Andrew smacks it again and hoists himself up, leaving me behind.

This is how you get through the day without welling up in front of the kids: 2 shots of coffee, nothing less and nothing more, to start with. Don't want to be shaking but need to be awake enough to use my smiling muscles in a sufficiently realistic manner; teeth, but not too much; eye wrinkles to match; wide eyes, but not too wide. Back before we had the kids, I remember despising the taste of coffee and turning my nose up at Andrew on his religious intake during morning strolls to the office. I haven't seen the office in years. I opened a letter that was addressed to Andrew a few months back congratulating the team on persevering through their renovations with ease. It's probably nothing of what I remember.

6am again. Here she goes. Andrew must be either be very heavily asleep or too tired to move. I guess it's my turn. I lean over him and slap the snooze button hastily, but I am not finished. I know what I'm doing, but I can't feel it. It's like I'm not even here. I'm watching myself in third person, like in one of those terrible films where the character dies and a ghost disperses from the body and watches it from above. I want to look away at what I'm watching, but I can't. I am watching myself, but this isn't me. It can't be me. I am beating into the grey plastic, pounding it relentlessly, ceaselessly, until I feel Andrew's strong grip pulling me back. I haven't noticed, but there are tears streaming down my face onto my lips. I taste salt and last night's casserole. His mouth is open and I can see that he is trying to devise a sentence behind his trembling lips and bewildered eyes but nothing comes for a long while. *Jesus, Vicki, we'll get an analogue*, he sort of whispers, before releasing his imprinted finger marks from my shoulders and hastily disposing of the now shattered clock. She's nothing of what she used to be; just a pile of broken pieces of plastic. A safety hazard waiting to happen, my mum would probably say. I'm not sure. I haven't seen her in a while.

It seems a long time since I've heard any words actually worth listening to. Avril Lavigne's new hit on the television in the background while I make up the sandwiches for the week; Andrew's 'Time To Get Up' phone alarm every morning at 6am playing on the otherwise bare nightstand; Malcolm Turnbull belittling the importance of global

warming at our local hall and still said by our neighbours to have been the biggest event of this crummy little town's history. Maybe I'm missing the point, maybe we all are. Maybe in this search for sensible speech we're ignoring the sounds that actually mean something. At night I hear Kelly bark and bark for Andrew's company and wonder how much I'm missing, how much is outside my capacity to hear. How much of my calling out for him doesn't get through? I'm getting it all wrong. Its sounds that send shivers down spines, cats up trees, cracks through glass, fists into alarm clocks. And maybe Andrew has been speaking to me this whole time without actually saying anything, I've just been too ignorant to try and hear.

Sophie O'Connell
Year 12 Literature

Business and Work Readiness Week

In a first for Swinburne Senior Secondary College, we launched a Business and Work Ready skills initiative through a week-long programme of workshops on interview skills and resume writing, smart earning, spending and savings from Start Smart. We also provided:

- sign up stands for free RSF, RSA and Barista courses through IMVC
- Workplace taster excursions to workplaces in media, audio, event management and youth work through IELLEN
- Work of Work Summit through Youth Worker's Centre.

Additionally a McDonalds recruitment fair was organised and interviews conducted by franchise owners for jobs at McDonalds.



A special assembly was organised and the guest speaker was Daniel Flynn from Thank You Water. He enthralled the whole school with his inspirational story of how he founded Thank You Water and the challenges and triumphs he faced along the journey. He inspired all the students to have a dream, pursue it and encouraged them to get out of their comfort zone.

The Careers Night also saw students and various tertiary institutions interact under one roof for advice on career choices during that week.

The Year 11 Business Management students also exhibited their entrepreneurial skills through Market Day having prepared business plans for their business ventures and now selling their artisanal products during lunchtime. Products for sale were baked goods, bath bombs and candles, tarot readings, tea, a game of chance, an op shop, a canteen delivery service.



The programme has well been received, the RSF, Barista and RSA courses have been oversubscribed, the workplace taster sessions well received by those who attended so far. McDonalds have recruited some of our students and Daniel Flynn's inspirational speech had students sitting on their seats captivated for an hour!



We believe students have to be prepared for their VCE and VCAL but also for life after school in the work world and this is a small step in that direction.

Gita Menon
Business Management Teacher

Music Department Update & Term 3 Music Nights

Our final Music Nights for the year will be held at the end of Term 3. This is a great opportunity for family and friends to come and see the product of all the hard practice and rehearsals our students have been committing to. Dates are as follows:

Tuesday 12th September - Swinburne Auditorium
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Tuesday 19th September - Dizzy's Jazz Club (upstairs at Boheme Restaurant, Bridge Rd Richmond)
Doors 6pm, \$8 entry

Exams are also approaching straight after the Term 3 break for all Year 12 students, being held from Monday 9th October to Sunday 5th November. All Year 12's will be completing a practice exam over the Term 3 break and now have their exam times allocated. If you require any further details for preparation, please contact Nick Taylor.

Nick Taylor & Lee Appleton
Music Department

