

From the Principal's Desk

Term 1 finishes today with staff and students having earned a well-deserved break over the next few weeks. I am pleased to report that the year has begun very well for the vast majority of students. Beginning a new school year can be challenging at the best of times and I know that this was the case for many students. For those students moving to Swinburne there would have been additional issues to deal with. Making new friends and developing relationships with their peers and teachers takes time and can be emotionally draining. With students coming from over 150 suburbs the issue of coming to terms with Melbourne's public transport system takes time. In addition to this, students are required to make sense of the VCE, VCAL and VET programs. Each of these certificates have their own language, requirements and nuances.



At the recent Parent/Teacher conferences, we had a significant proportion of our parents attending over the two weeks. I received some very positive feedback from parents that certainly emphasized the point that finding the right school at the right time is incredibly important. To find a school where you can be yourself, feel safe, supported, accepted and academically challenged to do your best is everyone's goal.

I look forward to following the growth and development of every student throughout their time with us.

School Council

The School Council for this year has been finalized. Congratulations to all councilors, in particular those that are joining us for the first time.

Parent Representatives

Craig Hickman (President)
Jennifer Arnold-Levy
Kate McGeorge
Rod Morris
Susan Robertson

Community Representatives

Oriel Flewell-Smith

Student Representatives

Bianca Ciavarella
Fynn Groves

DET Representatives

Michael O'Brien (Principal and Executive Officer)
Rob Lewkowicz
Stephanie Cross
Louise Blennerhassett
Kass Hall

CHANCES Scholars

Two representatives from the board of Boroondara Cares attended the school to present CHANCES Scholarships to three of our students. These scholarships are highly sought after, with students having to meet a range of strict criteria. Swinburne student to be awarded scholarships this year are Josh Brookes, Jada Kent and Ben Riskin. Provided that guidelines are met over the year, students have an opportunity of continuing with their scholarship through tertiary education.



Above: Ben and Josh receive their scholarships from John and Helen from Boroondara Cares.

Michael O'Brien
Principal

Assistant Principal's News

At Swinburne Senior Secondary College we have high expectations in the areas of student engagement, attendance and their learning.

Parent/Student/Teacher conferences were held on Wednesday 20 and 27 March and were well attended. Thank you to all parents who were able to attend.

At Swinburne we use Compass School Manager to record and monitor students' attendance. Once the teacher marks the class roll parents or guardians are

notified by SMS if their child is absent from class without parent or school approval.

When a student is away from school or a class, parents or guardians should log onto the Compass Portal and enter a parent approved absence at the beginning of the day or before the class begins. Students are expected to make up absences and the work they have missed.

I would like to encourage all parents to login to the Compass portal weekly, so they can be up to date with their child's attendance and any other new events happening at the college.

It will be a busy 2nd term; we have a number of events coming up at Swinburne Senior Secondary College. The college play opens on Wednesday 22 May, midyear practice exams for students enrolled in VCE Unit 3 English, Literature and English Language will be conducted on 11 June and the General Achievement Test (GAT) will be held for all students enrolled in a VCE Unit 3 subject on 12 June.

Term 2 begins on Tuesday 23 April (the timetable for Monday will be used).

For updated information regarding the college, please visit our website <https://sssc.vic.edu.au>

Robert Lewkowicz
Assistant Principal

safeTALK - All staff Professional Development

The Australian Bureau of Statistics identify that in 2017, over 3000 young people died due to suicide. That equates to approximately 8 people a day, double to that of roadside deaths. Most people who have suicidal thoughts feel unsure and try to tell someone, inviting them to respond and help.



Swinburne Senior Secondary College is committed to the health, wellbeing and safety of the school community. On March 13th all of the staff participated

in a safeTALK 3 hour workshop to help them develop skills to support someone with thoughts of suicide, to keep them safe and connect them to professional help.

All staff are now better prepared to:

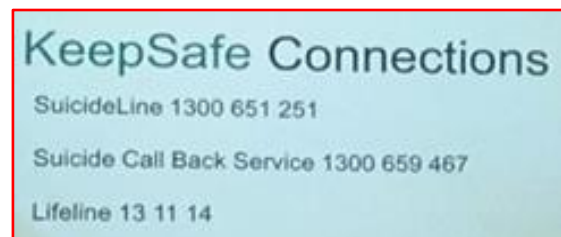
- **Notice** the signs that someone might be thinking about suicide.
- Be able to **ask** someone clearly and directly about their suicide thoughts & intentions.
- **Listen** to hear and understand more about their situation.
- Connect them to someone who can help them.
- **Keep safe** from acting on their thoughts.

The safeTALK program is used around Australia and worldwide. Volunteers on many helplines (like Lifeline) are provided with safeTALK training.

The workshop was run by the Anxiety Recovery Centre who are based in Surrey Hills, and offer extensive community education sessions.

The workshop was funded by Rotary Club of Victoria.

If you would like further information please refer to the website or contact a member of the school's Wellbeing Team. www.arcvic.org.au



Elizabeth, Kate, Madelene & Fiona
Wellbeing Team

Away

The Year 12 Theatre Studies Class has been working very hard on rehearsals and organising our school's upcoming play, 'Away' by Michael Gow. The play is set in 1960s Australia and follows the stories of 3 different families who whilst 'away' on holidays each experience their own struggles with their lives and it explores the concepts of fatality and love.

Tickets will be available at the beginning of Term 2 with a link for purchases. The dates for the play are from the 22nd - 25th of May at 7:30pm each night. More details will be available closer to Term 2. Hope to see you in the audience!

Student Wellbeing Workshops

The workshops on Study Strategies & Managing Avoidance, Stress Management, Life balance & Mood were well attended by the students.



On the evaluations the students felt they had learnt some useful strategies to help deal with the different challenges that confront them and have developed awareness of the community supports available for them.

Boroondara Youth Services funded the program and Kate Wilde from The Workshop ran each session.

Swinburne Senior Secondary College is committed to student wellbeing and more of these sessions will take place in Term 3.

Elizabeth Reardon
Student Wellbeing Leader

Six Tips to Help You Study During the Holidays

1. Create a Holiday Schedule

Create a holiday schedule to help you stay on track with your studies. Carve out a specific time to study that works best for you. It might be that you do school work for 1-2 hours each morning or a couple short periods throughout the week. Don't feel bad for allowing yourself some down time, but you will feel better if you have taken some time to do school work before you go and see that movie with your friends.

2. Check Your Subject Timelines

It is important to check your subject timelines regularly to make sure you aren't falling behind. The timelines for your subjects are suggested guides to help you to do some forward planning for Term 2. Keeping track of your timeline is crucial component to helping you study during the holidays. Maybe it's the case that you need to spend some time planning your Term 2 on a calendar.

3. Get Out of the House

Studying at home can be quite distracting during the holidays, especially if you have a large family. So pack up your laptop and head out to your nearest cafe for a chai latte and some quality study time. You'll be less distracted and more relaxed when you return home after a solid study session.

4. Reward Yourself

Use some positive reinforcement and reward yourself each time you accomplish something. Give yourself a reward for after you complete a chapter, for example. Knowing what goodies await you ahead, will motivate you to persevere in accomplishing your tasks.

5. Study with Friends

Students who study at least once a week in a study group with other students are more likely to have a better understanding of the course materials, ask good questions, and be more engaged in discussions. Collaborating with others and being around good company is one of the biggest factors to relieving stress and building motivation. Meet up with some friends to discuss that book you are studying in English over lunch.

6. Stay Inspired

Keep yourself motivated by reading your favourite blogs, finding inspirational boards on Pinterest, visiting galleries or seeing a music gig. Let's face it. Having to study during the holidays may not seem very appealing, but with clever strategies, you can stay on track while still enjoying the perks of not having to come to school every day for two weeks.

As usual, the big picture ideas are simple: have a plan, stay motivated and avoid distractions. Otherwise, enjoy your holidays!

Joel Guye

School Improvement Manager

Year 11 Subject changes for Semester 2

Year 11 students are able to change their subject selections for Semester 2. The Subject Change Form will be handed out on Thursday 2 May. These forms will need to be returned to the Year 11 Office by Tuesday 14 May. The form will need to be signed by the student and the parent.

Students wishing to swap subjects should start discussing their intentions with their parents and teachers. Subject swaps will be processed on a first come first served basis. We will process as many requests as possible provided there is room in the selected class.

Roy, Amanda and Lee

Year 11 Management Team

From the Year 12 Managers' Office

We have come to the end of Term 1 with most subjects having completed their first outcome and SAC/SAT submissions. The first interim reports are also out and students will have an idea on how well you have begun their Year 12 programme.

Some students have received a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) in one or more of your subjects and it is very important that the outstanding tasks are discussed with the relevant teachers and then completed by the student. It is important that the teacher, mentor and parent signatures obtained on the form. Once teachers have sighted the outstanding work, they will update the Chronicle post on Compass and the student come off the PIP.

The next interim report is due soon after the holidays and if outstanding work for any PIP hasn't been completed, it will be reflected on the report.

My tip to all Year 12 students is to use time productively- use the holiday break to catch up on outstanding work, read ahead for your next outcome, work on your folios and rest well so you are re-charged for Term 2. Year 12 is short- only three terms in all and you have completed the first term.

The Study periods are working well and it is great to see students using that time productively. Students will avoid the stress of last minute coursework catch up and perform better in their SACs/SATs if they are up to date.

Next Term, students will also be meeting Louise from Careers to explore tertiary options so it would be great if students could use this break to research courses that they would like to apply for and understand the ATAR requirements if any.

We wish all the Year 12 students a great break and hope to see them refreshed and ready to tackle Term 2 after the holidays.

Gita, Nick and Marcus
Year 12 Management Team

Interschool Debating

In March, Adelin, Marc, and Leo represented Swinburne Senior Secondary College in their first interschool debate held at Scotch College. The topic was "that instead of being elected, members of the parliament should be randomly selected".

Swinburne Senior Secondary put forward the argument that this would put undue pressure on individuals, and cause significant disruption to their lives, whilst also making them vulnerable to corruption from outside forces. With no accountability, and no prospect of re-

election, corporate lobby groups and government staffers would have easy access to these unskilled and unprepared policy makers.



Marc is Swinburne's first Debating Captain. He has demonstrated outstanding initiative, clarity, and organisation, including facilitating meetings to brainstorm the topic, share tips, and help his teammates prepare their speeches. After a nervous start, Adeline drew on her background in spoken word to deliver a confident and emotive speech. Marc, speaking second, delivered an authoritative and perfectly timed speech demonstrating excellent technique. And Leo pulled the arguments together succinctly and with admirable clarity.

While Swinburne were defeated by St Catherine's 225 to 229, the DAV (Debaters Association of Victoria) judges commended Swinburne on their outstanding signposting, clarity, and cohesiveness as a group. The two adjudicators also shared tips on what to work on for next time. This included reducing the level of detail to allow for broader philosophical ideas, more rebuttal, and "doubling down" on key ideas.

Overall we learned a lot and are looking forward to our next debate.

Meiki Apted
Student Voice Manager

Boroondara Farmers' Market

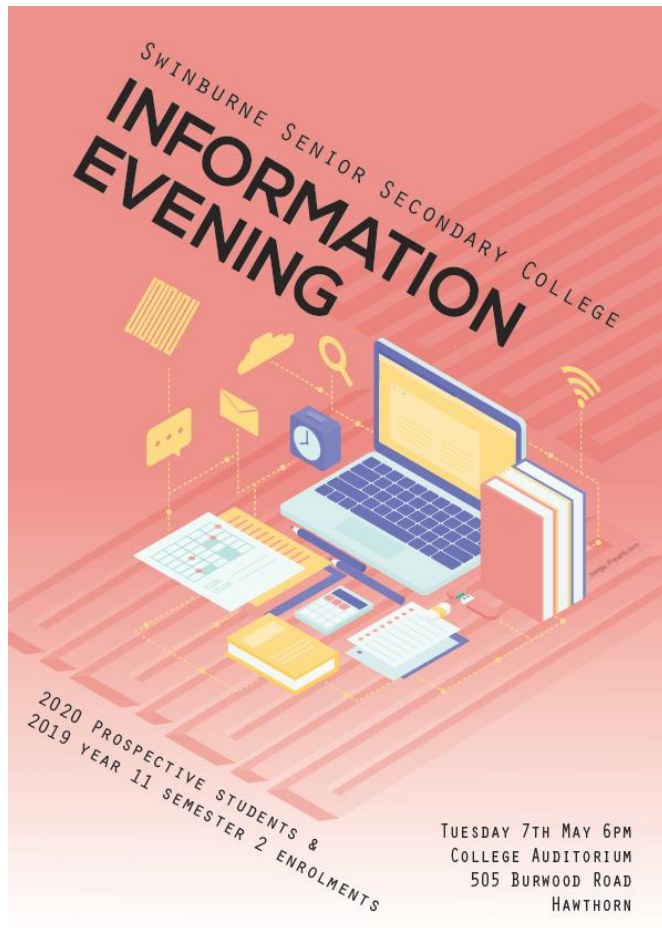
The Boroondara Farmers' Market is a project of the Rotary Club of Glenferrie in conjunction with the City of Boroondara.

When: Third Saturday of the month, 8am to 1pm
(and when there is a Fifth Saturday)
Where: Patterson Reserve, Auburn Road, Hawthorn East (Melway 59 E4)
Entry: \$2 donation
Contact: (03) 9278 4444

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



Drama Report

We've had a busy first term in Drama. The year 11s and 12s visited the La Mama Courthouse Theatre to see *The Yellow Wallpaper*, by Charlotte Perkins Gillman. The one-woman-play is based on the true story of a woman suffering from post-partum depression, who was confined to her room and forbidden to write, exercise, or socialise. This "rest cure" leaves her spiralling into a deeper and deeper state of mental fragility until she escapes into her imagination.

"haunting, captivating and realistic" – Archie McDonald

"important, creepy, liberating" – Bella Soccio

The following week the year 12 drama students visited the Arts Centre Melbourne to watch the top drama solos of 2018. The talent we saw was phenomenal and gave us lots of ideas for our own solos.

Seeing last year's best performances was useful to me as it provided insight into the level of energy and workload needed to do well in Drama. The different colourful and fragmentary costumes and props gave me inspiration as to what I may use later in the year for my own solo - keeping in mind similar options that would allow for versatility. Overall, it was a great experience to see what is expected of me and how I too should feel inspired to create! – Fynn Groves



The year 12s are currently devising their own original 30 minute ensemble plays. These will be performed in the Cottage Theatre on Tuesday May 14th. Contact Meiki for details.

Meiki Apted
Drama Teacher

Performing Arts

Term 1 has been busy with students preparing for a range of performances next term!

Drama

Year 12 Drama Ensemble Night is Tuesday May 14th in the Cottage Theatre, 5.30pm - 8.30pm. Free admission. RSVP to Meiki by Tuesday May 7th (parents

and friends of students can RSVP to Meiki via the student). All Welcome.

In Year 12 Drama, students write and direct their own original 30 minute performances. There will be five performances on the night, as well as short breaks during the changeover. Performances may contain adult themes, violence, and coarse language. The performances and the development process contribute 20% to the students study score for Year 12 Drama. Please contact drama teacher Meiki Apted for details.

Theatre Studies

Theatre Studies students are busy working away on 'Away' by Michael Gow, and it will run from the 22nd - 25th of May at 7:30pm. Tickets will be released at the beginning of Term 2, so keep an eye out!

Music

The Music Department will host two music nights towards the end of Term 2: Tuesday 11th and 18th of June. Students from both Year 11 and 12 Music Performance, Year 12 Music Investigation, and the Ensemble Program will be performing. Further details to come early in Term 2!

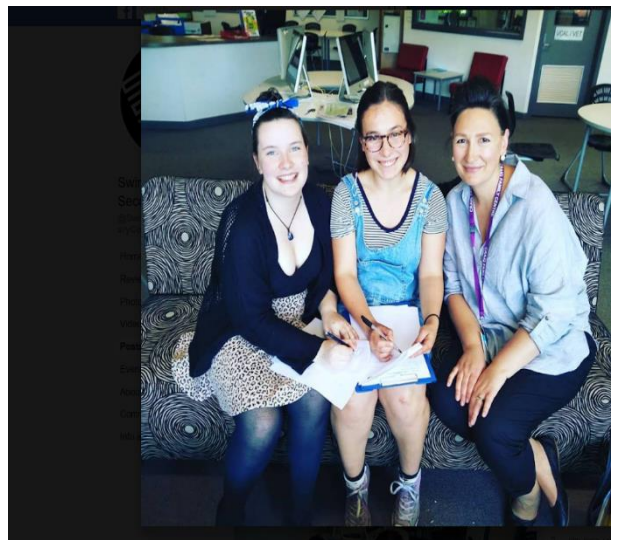
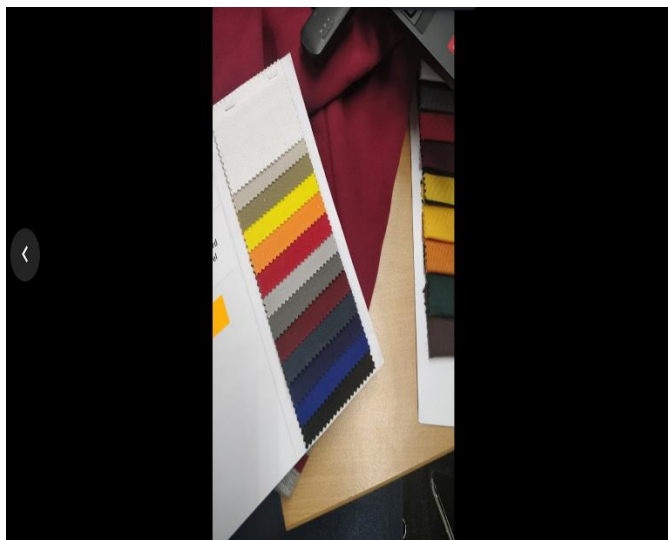
Nick Taylor

Performing Arts Team Leader

Student Voice

In SRC Term 1 lots has been going on!

We designed the College Jumpers this term with a new company, FCW who are Australian based! We worked closely with the team there to choose the best fit, fabric and colour. We've got orders for the half zip and rugby jumper in black and blue and they should be here just in time for winter. We are excited to see how they turn out!



At School Council we had the opportunity to report back what we have been up to in SRC, Social Justice, Rainbow and Greenthumbs so far in 2019. We also gained insight into the workings of School Council procedure as part of the board.

The Four Yearly College Review took place earlier this year and Fynn and I had the chance to work on a panel of inspiring people in our education system including leading teachers from our school, principals from surrounding schools and representatives from the department of education. It was a three day adventure in which classroom observations, student and teacher panels and discussion about how to improve and grow the ability of our school, took place. We looked over statistics including the average student Study Scores in recent years, GAT predicted values and data from the Attitudes to School Survey. We collaborated to set targets for our school to aim to meet in the next four years. We provided a student perspective to clarify to the panel our insight as pupils.



This year our SRC is leading with a new gardening club that all our students are welcome to be apart of. We had a visit from a horticulturalist, Cass Groves, who came in to show us where we could plant our veggie garden and the kinds of plants that would give us a

high yield all year round. We are now in the stage of constructing the garden and purchasing plants, and we hope that soon Food Studies classes will be able to use our freshly grown produce!

Another club has been set up this year, Debate Club! Marc Repse is our very first Debate Captain. So far the team has put in a wonderful effort, only losing their very first round by 4 points! Up against St Catherine's School, each side debated for the affirmative or negative whether or not we should elect our government with elections or by random allocation. Well done to Marc Repse, Leo Munro, Adeline who will be progressing into their next round on the 9th May. Best of luck to them all!



The SRC has already begun the organisation process on Swinburne's Formal coming up in June. So far there are many passionate students who are excited to continue work on the big night. As of right now we have determined a theme for the dance and will begin producing posters to promote the formal with all the details needed. Looking forward to seeing all our pupils dressed up, dancing and have a wonderful evening! Can't wait to see what Term 2 brings!

*Bianca and Fynn
Year 12 Captains*

Year 11 Student Voice

Congratulations to all the students who applied for the position of year 11 Captain. The quality of the applicants was outstanding and it has been wonderful getting to know them. Next term, we will hold elections and two year 11 Captains will be selected by secret ballot.

This term we also held a year 11 forum, where a small group of students gave feedback about the Swinburne experience. As part of this, we asked students to provide

some tips for parent teacher interviews. Here's what they said:

Q. Parent Teacher Interviews: What is important?

- Should focus on engagement, not on grades (you can receive high grades but is that important if you're not engaged and not learning?)
- Focus on how student can improve – should come away with ideas of what to work on
- Should include positives, not just negatives
- It's difficult to criticise teachers, and most students wouldn't feel comfortable doing this, so it would be helpful for teachers to ask questions that provide room for feedback without inviting an evaluation eg. Instead of "how is the class going", ask "are the teaching styles working for you?" This keeps the focus technical so it's not personal, and gives the students' space to ask for what they need without appearing to criticise the teacher.

All students are welcome to come to our weekly SRC, Social Justice, and Rainbow meetings. The meetings are held in the library at lunchtime on Tuesdays with Meiki and Sam. Hope to see you there!!

*Meiki Apted
Student Voice Manager*

