

## From the Principal's Desk

It is difficult to believe that we are at the end of term 3. The realization that the academic year is quickly drawing to a close for our Year 12 students has been met with a range of responses. For many there is a feeling of relief that their secondary schooling is drawing to a close. There's no doubting that obtaining a senior school certificate requires a significant commitment and a decent dose of perseverance.



Most students will be looking forward to preparing for examinations without the pressure of having new work with which to contend. I sincerely hope that all of our students make the most of the opportunities that will be provided by teachers over the coming weeks. The recent Exam Preparation workshops provided a number of tips for great revision and exam preparation. I encourage students to look back over their workbooks and re-familiarize themselves with these tips.

Having a school with so many students undertaking a visual arts subject provides us with a wonderful situation where we have so many high quality pieces of work being produced.

## 2019 Parent Opinion Survey

The results from the recent electronic survey are in! This year we received 42 parent responses.

At this stage there is no comparative data with other schools. The + or – column represents the change from 2018.

## FISO: Community Engagement in Learning (7 framework factors in total)

<i>General Satisfaction</i>	100%	+10%
<i>School pride and confidence</i>	93%	+5%
<i>Physical environment</i>	93%	+3%
<i>School support</i>	90%	-2%
<i>Teacher communication</i>	77%	+1%
<i>Parent participation and involvement</i>	60%	-7%

## FISO: Excellence in teaching and learning (6 framework factors in total)

<i>Student motivation and support</i>	77%	+1%
<i>Effective teaching</i>	84%	-2%
<i>Student agency and voice</i>	87%	+3%
<i>Confidence and resiliency skills</i>	95%	+9%
<i>High expectations for success</i>	90%	+5%

## FISO: Positive climate for learning (6 framework factors in total)

<i>Positive transitions</i>	95%	+7%
<i>Respect for diversity</i>	92%	-1%
<i>Promoting positive behaviour</i>	92%	+4%
<i>School connectedness</i>	94%	+6%
<i>Non-experience of bullying</i>	93%	+3%
<i>Managing bullying</i>	85%	-3%

The survey results provide the school with an insight into what parents think about a range of issues regarding their experience with the school. This data is reviewed and discussed in various forums including school council. Feedback allows us to celebrate what we are doing well and identify areas for further improvement.

I wish all members of the Swinburne Senior SC community a happy and healthy term break. School resumes for everyone on Monday 7 October.

*Michael O'Brien*  
Principal

## **From the Year 12 Manager's Desk**

We are approaching the end of the Semester with the Term 3 break approaching and we then have two weeks of Year 12 classes left after the break. It is a very critical stage in the Year 12 programme, when students have to be focussed on completing their SACs and SATs, coursework, attendance redemption and getting ready for the VCE exams which begin on Wednesday 30th October.

Even if students are doing an unscored VCE, the focus has to be on completing SACS, coursework and attendance satisfactorily to get a VCE Pass.

The last day for Year 12s is Tuesday 22 October when we organise a Celebration Day at school. Students get a chance to celebrate this last day at school with the Mentors for a breakfast and an Assembly to reflect on their successful completion of VCE with speeches, music and a photo booth. We expect students to be on their best behaviour on this day and reflect the school values of respect, responsibility and commitment as that would be how we want to remember this graduating class of 2019. We have set up protocols and procedures to manage the day so it is a fun and safe day for all.

Students then head into a SWOTVAC week where they prepare for the exams at home.

As you head into the term break, please ensure you get some valuable rest but also use this time to get your notes in order, revise for the exams and complete practice exams. The Englishes are running practice exams on Wednesday 9 October when you return from the break. Every other class will set some revision/holiday homework for this break to prepare you for the exams.

We wish you all the best and have a good break.

*Gita, Marcus and Nick*  
*Year 12 Management Team*

### **Assistant Principal's Message**

It has been a busy month for all staff and students. The students are currently completing their assessed coursework and major folio work. Louise Blennerhassett, in Careers, has been working hard looking at pathways for exiting and enrolled students including applications through VTAC for university degrees and TAFE diploma courses. Louise is running course counselling interviews for Year 12 students outlining all pathways options for next year.

The Music nights held in our auditorium and Cottage Theatre were well attended and have been a great success displaying the creative skills of our students.

I would like to wish all staff and students a safe term break.

*Rob Lewkowicz*  
*Assistant Principal*

### **Lara Dunkley: Victorian Netballer**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, the Year 11's had a special presentation from professional netballer, Lara Dunkley who trains at the Victorian Institute of Sport. Lara talked about her challenges in perusing her goal of playing professional netball and making the Victorian Team. She often had to study whilst on long car journeys to training and whilst training four days a week she still managed to finish her University Degree in Education.

Other key messages from the presentation were: making sacrifices for her goals whilst managing her work/life balance, focusing on healthy eating to help her perform at her best (whilst being balanced about having treats and fast food) and persistence to keep pursuing her goals despite numerous setbacks. Despite not making the Victorian team for 4 years in a row, Lara managed to overcome the mental challenges (often relying on her support network when she felt like giving up) and kept working on areas that coaches had

identified as needing work, until she was eventually successful.



The Year 11 students were very engaged in the presentation and asked some great questions about persistence.

### **R U OK Day**

On Thursday the 12th of September, Swinburne hosted a R U OK day for all year 11 and 12 students. Weeks prior to the event the Year 11 and 12 VCAL students were in charge of organising and planning the event when it came to food, activities and games and music. The Year 11's did a very good job at organising the food for the event having a vast range of options like a BBQ, toasted sandwiches, brownies and cakes to many more options. The Year 12 Senior VCAL class were in charge of the whole event but mostly organising the games and activities, music and mentor sessions and also helping out with the year 11's where needed. The Senior VCAL class did a good job at making sure there were plenty of fun things to do like face painting, a colouring competition and live music, everyone at Swinburne surely enjoyed it. It was a successful day for sure and we raised a lot of awareness for R U OK day. So... R U OK?

*Georgia Evans*  
*Senior VCAL*

## Spring Music Evenings

September was a busy time in the music department with Unit 3 4 students preparing for their end of year performance exams (worth 50% of their final mark). Each September the Music Department put on two concerts so students can show case their hard work to family and friends. Both concerts were well attended and due to the increasing enrolments in music... we set a record.... for the longest music night!



After the concert, we got all of the audience members who made it to the end up on the stage for a photo. Thanks to all the staff, students and parents who facilitate the students practice and help them to enjoy music.

*Lee Appleton*  
*Music Teacher*

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Lilly Phoenix and Oskar Adderley. To reward their commitment to the SRC this year, including leadership on several key projects, they have each been awarded a VCE Exam Revision Lecture Pass from the TSFC School for Excellence. Passes are valued at \$400. Well done Lilly and Oskar!

*Meiki Apted*  
*Student Voice and Agency Manager*

## From the School Improvement Manager

### Avoiding Complacency

When teachers and students arrive at the end of Term 3 there is a great sigh of relief. It is a long term with no public holidays, folios have been submitted and final SACs completed (for Year 12s), but that does not mean that it is time to become complacent. For many Year 12s, they will be starting to prepare for their exams. For Year 11 students, the time is now to step up your work output to put you in a good position to approach Year 12 with the skillset required to achieve personal success in your subjects in 2020.

Complacency is a human trait that we all succumb to at times in our lives. Complacency means that we are comfortable, which is not always a bad thing, but it can have detrimental effects on our ability to grow. Many big companies rely on our innate human desire to be complacent. They will not go out of their way to help you get the best deal on your home loan or mobile plan. Instead, their profits come from our own comfort zones and lack of initiative to get something better for ourselves. If you take the time to call and negotiate with these companies you will find out that you can get a cheaper rate, but it takes some work and effort on our behalf. The same applies to our school and work lives.

Remember the goals you set for yourself at the beginning of the year? You came to school excited, committed and motivated. Many of you are still working to achieve those goals, but do not let the fire in your belly peter out into a puff of smoke. The major goals you set yourself at the start of 2018 can only be achieved by continual work and practice, through drive and ambition. Handing in all your SACs and having your coursework up to date is only half the battle. They are the pieces to the puzzle that you are hoping to complete by the end of this year. Take a breath, but please make sure that you reflect on your goals and reload for the final term.

Complacency often reveals itself in the way you are approaching your studies. It is possible that you are not working with same "edge" you had at the start of 2018. You might not perceive any signs or warnings immediately if you are becoming complacent. In fact, you might be feeling great, relaxed and comfortable. These feelings are sure signs that complacency has set in.

Here are five steps to avoid complacency over the September holidays to keep you on track to achieve your ultimate goals:

### **1. Start every day from scratch.**

Sustainable excellence is about getting better every day. While it is good to reflect on all the work you have done thus far, do not dwell in the past. Those who are leaders in their fields do not take days off until they achieve their ultimate goals. You should be waking up every morning with mindset of "getting better". Continuous improvement is not a cliché, but rather a way of life.

### **2. Surround yourself with people who will tell you like it is.**

To improve your skills and knowledge in any area, it is important to seek feedback from people who will not sugar coat their criticism or stroke your ego. Successful individuals often attract followers who want to be associated with success but aren't



willing to pay the price to achieve it themselves. While positive comments feel flattering, it can put you into a complacent mindset. Support from your peers, teachers and parents is very important as you come closer to your goals, but sometimes to you need to hear the hard truths to keep you motivated. Friends and family sometimes fear that by telling the truth, they will cause harm to your relationships with them. Let them know that you want to hear the truth about where you're at, where you have been and where you are going in relation to your goals.

### 3. Focus on process instead of outcome.

Successful students, relationships and organisations develop a process for achieving and sustaining excellence. They follow an established approach with discipline. If they don't achieve their goals, they adjust the process. Over your schooling year, you would have made many adjustments to your work practices to improve your skills in your subjects. You would have taken on the teacher's feedback and used it to make your next piece of work better than the last piece. It is often the case that people who focus only on outcomes may achieve success, but it will not be sustainable. There is no way to repeat success consistently without a method, formula or approach – a process. Think about the processes you have used to get you to where you are now and keep what's working for you and adjust what is not.

### 4. Continuously learn and adapt.

Many successful individuals rely on the same methods that brought them to their goals to keep them achieving success. While you do need core philosophies, principles and values to achieve sustainable excellence, you must also adapt some techniques and approaches to remain sharp and on top of your game. This is very much the case for your preparation for the end of year exams. Students need to take the skills and knowledge gained from a whole year's course of study and work to hone and refine them for successful performance in a 2-3 hour examination. This requires new ways of writing and responding within different time constraints. Students should think about how they can change their approaches to tackle a different way of using the skills they have developed over the year. This will make topics you have covered a little more "fresh" and should get you out of the complacency hole.

### 5. Recharge the batteries.

Successful students are extremely driven. They do not always work a 9-to-5 day and often go for long periods of time without a "work-life-balance". Sometimes this necessary for achieving your best

and for continual improvement. However, in order to avoid complacency you must build in time for rest, relaxation, hobbies, reflection and quality time with family and friends. These are often the things that give you the energy to continue to improve, perform and succeed. If you do not plan these into your schedule you may become the "hamster on the wheel". Eventually, either the hamster or the wheel breaks down. You will not be able to improve if you are continually tired. Tiredness breeds complacency.

I wish all the students and families a safe holiday break and look forward to seeing our students work towards their individual goals.

*Joel Guye*

*School Improvement Manager*

### Sustainability Week Success!

From Monday 9th September to Friday 13th September, the SRC organised a fantastic week full of events that attempted to raise awareness on environmental issues as a part of 'Sustainability Week'. We began the week by encouraging students to attend our 'Clothes Swap' organised by Social Justice Captain, Laura Moorfoot. It was a big success, with a large portion of the donated clothes being taken home by students the very same day. The leftover clothes were donated to our local opportunity shops to continue the sustainable cycle of giving away clothing.



The Year 11s, in collaboration with the R U OKAY day team, created a Kahoot to be played on Thursday's mentor session to raise awareness on ways to recycle correctly and become more sustainable in everyday living. Media teacher Ed supported Media students Niall and Booker to create a video highlighting the reasons behind our garden project.



On the Thursday there was an extended lunchtime in which we had our launch of the Healthy Habits garden. With the help of both staff and Green Thumbs members we were able to create a garden full of leafy greens, soon to be fresh vegetables and fruit. We hope this garden will last for years to come, with the Green Thumbs team ensuring it's health, growth and possible additions will still look just as wonderful. Of course for all this work to come to fruition we must give thanks to many lovely people for assisting us.

Thank you to Oskar Addlerly and his Wood Tech team for creating the beautifully crafted planter boxes, thank you to horticulturist, Cass Groves, for helping us to plan our gorgeous garden, thank you to Anthea and Chris Moorfoot from Yarra Junction H Hardware for supplying us with all of the equipment and thank you to all the staff members who made this possible by donating clothes, driving us to Bunnings (John), documenting the project (Ed and Claire), helping us plant (especially Viv, Rachel, and Mick). Meiki has been supporting us to lead this project from start to finish, including applying for grants, budgeting, scouting a garden site, and coordinating the buying and planting, and we are really proud of how well we have worked together as a team to make this happen.



We must also give a big thank you to the Boroondara Youth Foundation for supplying us the grant funds to be able to complete this much needed project in our community!

We finished Sustainability Week with another extended lunch and hosting a screening of '2040', a thought provoking documentary by Damon Gameau on exploring possible solutions to global warming. Thank you to anyone who attended any of our events and we hope you enjoyed and gained some knowledge into how to make your life more sustainable for our planet!

*Fynn Groves  
College Captain*

### **Year 11 Business Management**

Year 11 Business Management students raced around Melbourne Central in teams cracking marketing clues and collecting photographic evidence of the 7 Ps in Marketing as a culmination of their Marketing and PR unit. The winners won a lunch out! It was a Wednesday afternoon well spent learning experientially.







*Gita Menon  
Business Management Teacher*

