South Oakleigh College has been buzzing with a number of exciting activities and events in the months of July and August. Our annual production “The Pirates of Penzance” – Junior version was held and appreciated by all. I cannot tell you how proud I am of all who participated and made it a wonderful and entertaining performance. In particular thank you to Mr Platenkamp, Ms Close, Ms Downs and Mr Prewitt who worked solidly with all students to ensure all went well during the performances.

Our 6th Annual Wellfest week was a time to look within and be supportive of each other as well as enjoy the number of activities offered by the Wellbeing Team, headed by Ms Ford. Once again thank you to all for the hard work and effort.

The College also had the official opening of the Poppi O’Connor Gallery – where we celebrated and acknowledged the work that Poppi O’Connor has done in the Arts faculty over 37 years. The evening was attended by a number of College community members both past and present; Christine Strachan (past College Council President whom our theatre has been named after); College Council members; past and present students and staff; local Primary School Principals; and many others. Some students and staff who attended had an association with Poppi dating back to 1985 were also in attendance; a legacy to Poppi and the love for the Arts she instilled in them.

It was an amazing evening showcasing Poppi’s work and that of our own talented members of staff and students. Thank you to all of these people for their work in making this a very successful evening. As part of her continued support of the College Poppi has presented the school with a bursary to be presented to a talented Art student in Year 11 who shows dedication, determination and an appreciation of the arts. This Scholarship will be known as the Poppi O’Connor Scholarship and will be available to our students for the next ten years.

The Senior School Parent Teacher evening was held on Tuesday 28th July. The interviews were earlier this year to maximise the time that students can respond to formal feedback from their classroom teacher. I recognise that it can be difficult for students to maintain a sustained focus on their studies, but in order for students to achieve their personal best, they need to dig deep and continue to demonstrate their commitment and endeavour to their studies as we get closer to the end of year exams. We have also undergone a rigorous course selection process in preparation for next year with most Senior School students counselled into their subjects for 2016. Confirmation of these courses will occur later in the year.

I would like to reminder that the Middle School Parent interviews will be held on Thursday 3rd September 2015.
Assistant Principal’s Report

Principal’s Report Cont...

I encourage all parents to attend with their children to discuss with their teachers their child’s progress and opportunities to consolidate their learning. I look forward to seeing you there.

“The most powerful single moderator that enhances achievement is feedback. The simplest prescription for improving education must be ‘dollops of feedback’ — providing information how and why the child understands, misunderstands, and what directions the student must take to improve”. Hattie, 1999

As we go about our work we can see, feel and hear learning in action. We see our students demonstrating real understanding about what they are doing and how they need to go about it. The teaching and learning is often building on from what’s gone before and providing opportunity for our students to add depth and ‘polish’ to their work.

Friday 7th August saw the premiere performance of this year’s school production, “Pirates of Penzance”. What a fantastic school production we had this year.

Congratulations to all staff and students involved in ensuring that this was the case. A special congratulations to Mr Platenkamp for his outstanding work in directing the show. Thank you also to the following teachers:

- Ms Close – painting of sets/ construction of sets
- Ms Downs – makeup/back stage
- Mr Prewett – vocals
- Mr Horsburgh – lighting and sound
- Ms Gross – designing the promotional boards and event programs
- Ms Stamatelatos – publicity

By far the biggest thanks and the greatest congratulations goes to the students who formed part of the cast and crew. It was clearly evident during the three evening performances that they absolutely loved what they were doing and demonstrated great confidence. Word quickly spread around our community regarding the high quality of the show, and it was very pleasing that the final performance was the best attended of any recent school production. Congratulations again to one and all.

Student Information

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details, or the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts. We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely.
Year 10 Coordination
Not all parents will be aware that Ms Andrea Carmody has had to step aside as the Year 10 Coordinator due personal circumstances. Ms Tilbey and Mr Denver have jointly taken over the Year 10 Coordination for the remainder of this year.

Arrangements for the remainder of this year are:
Ms Renata Tilbey  - Years 10 & 11 Coordination
Mr Ian Denver     - Years 10 & 12 Coordination, Senior School Leader

We are sad to see Ms Carmody leave the team, for the moment, but fully understand. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrea on behalf of students, parents and staff for all her effort and work as a member of the Senior Team in supporting our students and the College values.

Careers and Pathways Leader, Ms Bronwyn Cullinan, will be moving into the Senior School office with Ms Tilbey and Mr Denver. It is hoped that this will help make Ms Cullinan more readily accessible to the Senior students as well encourage the middle school students to avail themselves of her as they move on to the Library during lunchtimes.

2016 Senior School Course Selection
It was wonderful to see so many students, parents and family members at the Senior School Course Selection Evening on Tuesday July 28th.

Thank you to students and parents for the thorough completion, and punctual return to the school office, of the 2016 Course Selection Sheets.

Our 2015 Years 9, 10 and 11 students were last week counselled and allocated to their 2016 courses by Ms Louise O’Neill, Mr Tony Katsianos and Mr Ian Denver.

Some parents are currently being contacted, and appointments being made, to come in to the school and discuss how they may support their son/daughter in the senior school. Our senior school students now need to ensure that they work to the best of their ability for the remainder of this year so as to ensure passage to their selected 2016 subjects. Students and Parents will meet up again for Course Confirmation on Wednesday 18th and 19th of November in order to finally sign off on course selections and pay fees.

2016 Year 12 Retreat
Each year our Year 12 students attend a Retreat, early in the year, in order to establish the academic framework and group dynamics necessary for a successful year of study. All Year 12 students must attend the Retreat. It is not optional.

The 2016 Year 12 Retreat will be a Camp at Phillip Island from Monday 28 Feb to Wed 2 March. The approximate cost of the Retreat will be about $260. More information will be provided to our 2015 Year 11 students and Parents as soon as details are finalised.

We as the Senior School Team are looking to make a real difference to the Senior School. Our expectations are high and our mission is to improve all student outcomes. We are happy to speak to any member of the College community at any time. Please feel free to phone us at the school on 95792322 or make an appointment to visit us.
See our Writer in Residence get slimed!
At South Oakleigh College, we are in the fortunate position of having our own Writer in Residence who runs junior Enrichment programs and Year 12 Study Skills. Skye Melki-Wegner was recently interviewed about her novels on ABC 3 and then participated in a fun author Challenge. The results and the subsequent sliming she received will be screened during Book Week. If you’re interested, you can tune into ABC3 on Wednesday 26th August from 4:45 pm.

As reported in the last newsletter, our Year 12 students were privileged to be offered opportunities to enhance their understanding of Year 12 texts and exams. Here is one student’s response to these opportunities.

**Summer of the Seventeenth Doll**
On July 23rd, Year 12 English and EAL students studying ‘Summer of the Seventeenth Doll’ had the opportunity to see the play being performed. Students and their teachers attended Carrum Downs College to view a professional production.

The **Summer of the Seventeenth Doll** performance by Complete Works Theatre Company essentially captured the whole play into a forty-five minute skit. It was very well acted by the performers and their resemblance, including facial features, tone and the chemistry between them was very similar to the one depicted in the written play. The commentary between the scenes was a very clever idea and it ensured the audience knew exactly what part of the play was being portrayed. The aggression of Roo during the fight scene with Barney made the audience feel as though they were experiencing it in real life. Overall, the performance was very engaging and thorough in the delivery. By Mukul Relan

**Chief English Examiner**
Year 12 students were fortunate enough to hear words of wisdom and exam advice from Bob Hillman, the Chief English Examiner, on July 29th in our school theatre.

During Bob Hillman’s eccentric and highly entertaining lecture, I found myself questioning whether or not I’ve been putting enough effort into studying for the big exams. He told us that self-determination, self-discipline and sophistication will get us where we want to be and that it is truly up to us to achieve our goals.
He took us back to reality and told us that we only really had nine weeks left until our first exam, but explained that it is enough time to get our mindset in the right place and to get our act together. Knowing he was the Chief English Examiner, I knew I had to note down every bit of information he was saying in order to do well in the exams. I was motivated to go home and create visual posters after his lecture. It took me quite a while, but if his students are getting study scores of 40+, heck, I’ll do it too if it means boosting up my ATAR! By Robin Maraviles

Bob Hillman’s presentation on how to succeed in VCE English was action-packed and enthralling. Hillman started off by explaining the importance of working hard and why getting a great score in VCE can benefit us in the future. “Getting an ATAR of 90 opens up hundreds of new courses compared to getting a 70,” he said in his talk. He also gave students several tips and examples about how they can maximise their scores in the exams. As well as being content heavy, the presentation also consisted of a few giggles in-between, courtesy of Hillman’s jokes. The overall presentation was motivating, informative and Hillman’s ability to be so energised throughout the presentation definitely inspired many students and conveyed the correct message about the importance of education. By Mukul Relan

Our Year 12 students are exploring the context of Identity and Belonging as part of their studies. Here is a reflection from a student in Ms. Pellitidis’ class considering how our identity is shaped:

“Our identity is shaped by our relationships”
If you have friends, you’re likely to adopt some things that they do. For example, one of your friends might use a certain word all the time and because you hear it so much, you start saying it too. You didn't create that word on your own and you probably wouldn’t have ever used it if you weren't surrounded by it. If people weren't exposed to different things, how would knowledge be passed down? How would tradition be passed down? Everything that everyone knows has come from different places and people to create this one person. Who you are isn’t just made up of your own thoughts. Your identity is shaped by society and the people you associate yourself with.

Australia has been battling the ‘issue’ of asylum seekers seeking refuge. Why is it such a bad thing to allow people into our country? Are people afraid of change? Are people afraid that another race is going to take over? Newsflash, how do you think you got here? You didn’t just appear in the ‘land down under’ out of thin air. Unless you’re indigenous, you can’t be kicking other people out of the country who are just trying to escape war and live a better life. Tony Abbott is Australia’s leader and he himself has said that he wants to “stop the boats”. Because Mr. Abbott is Australia’s leader, the nation looks up to him which means people are conforming to his ways and agreeing with his view of asylum seekers. This proves that some people just follow the crowd and agree with whatever the majority of the population are saying. Where’s the originality? The uniqueness? It’s lost because no one wants to stand out in today’s society. Famous playwright, Oscar Wilde, once said “Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else’s opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation”… (Anonymous)
Mission to Mars Report

Our students who attended the Science excursion to VSSEC (Victorian Space Science Education Centre) at Strathmore Secondary were able to dress up as Astronauts stepping out onto the Martian surface searching for geological samples and signs of life. Then they were at Mission Control in Houston, then on to the lab to analyse what they found and present their findings.

Astronaut

During our excursion to VSSEC, Strathmore, my group were the first people to explore Mars. We watched an introductory video and then were given roles. Along with Theo, I was a Commander for the mission, meaning we were in charge of making sure everyone did their jobs correctly. When it came to putting on our space suits, things got a little heated, LITERALLY! We all had to put a space suit over the jumpsuit that we were already wearing, along with gloves, large boots, an oxygen pack and a helmet to keep us from breathing in carbon dioxide.

When everyone was ready, Mission Control instructed us through the microphone; my guide was Paige, who was Mission Director. Being Commanders, Theo and I had to be the first on mars, bringing with us the tool cart. We stepped into the airlock and we were off to Mars!

When Theo and I “landed” on Mars, we had to set up markers of where specific types of rocks were, where there was radiation, and both hot and cold surfaces. After this was done, I began to take photos of experiments that were happening throughout Mars.

When 50 minutes had passed, Mission Control informed us of a sandstorm that would hit Mars in 5-10 minutes. I was instructed to get everyone off Mars, into the airlock in pairs; making sure that Theo and I were the last ones off. Everyone was panicking as the sandstorm drew nearer! Luckily Theo and I made it off in time before the sandstorm hit.
Mission Control
After returning from Mars alive and well, we had a short break to eat before we swapped roles with Mission Control; they became Astronauts while we became the new Mission Control. My role along with Karla, was EVAO which stands for Extra Vehicular Activity Officer. Our job was to guide the Engineers Paige and Jainish, who had to set up the weather app on the iPad, set up the camera on the rover and collect pre-drilled core samples.

Every 5 minutes Karla and I had to write down the wind speeds and rising radiation levels, to ensure it didn’t get to high. We had to answer many scientific questions in order to get back to helping the Astronauts down on Mars.

During our time in Mission Control, Karla and I had to figure out how long we had until a solar storm hit Mars. Our two instructors, Morgan and Luca, gave us a diagram in order to figure out the time left before the storm arrived.

We managed to get the astronauts off Mars before the solar storm hit, with 2 minutes to spare!

Lab analysis
Before we went into the lab to examine all the rock samples we had collected on both missions, we had a lunch break which lasted for 1 hour, but it felt like much longer.

After we had put on our lab coats, we proceeded into the lab to start our examination of the rocks and got put into little groups according to the jobs we had on Mars; my group consisted of Eujeane, Alexia, Theo and I, as we were all commanders. Our job as a group was to use the touch screen TVs and figure out an environment where and when certain rocks could have been found. We had to fill this out on one side and then on the flipped side of the sheet, we had to figure out what rocks were found in which excavated area on Mars.

When this was done, we watched a short video about the biggest volcano on Mars on one of the two touch screen TVs. Once the video was over, we went around the lab and helped out with anything people needed help with. By the end of the lesson the commanders had to present and talk about what we had found out during the hour in the lab. By Elizabeth Demosthenous 8c
Mission to Mars

On Wednesday the 5th of August we went to the VSSEC centre in the grounds of Strathmore Secondary College. In the premises of the VSSEC building there was a lab and a control room as well as Mars.

We started off in a theatre where we watched our launch and got our briefing then we got all suited up and went through the airlock onto Mars. When we were on Mars I was an engineer and in that role I had to check the weather stations for wind and radiation levels as well as set up the camera and collect core samples. After I had collected the core samples I had to identify them as igneous, metamorphic, sedimentary rocks we had to work out what they were called. If the rocks were igneous rocks then we had to say if they were intrusive or extrusive.

After we had completed our job we had to keep an eye on the wind and radiation levels. At 55 minutes into the mission we finally were told to evacuate because a sand storm/dust storm was going to hit in 7 minutes at 62 minutes into the mission. We all got out just as the dust storm hit. We were just safe.

After recess we swapped rolls the astronauts were mission control and the mission control became astronauts. In mission control I was the mission director MD for short I was the big boss along with Theo. We were responsible to give the instructions to the commanders of the Mission on Mars and had to help everyone when they needed help. At 60 minutes into the mission I was notified that a radiation storm was occurring. We had to warn them but we did not know what time it would hit. The EVAO’s were busy calculating when it would hit. They calculated it would hit at 74 minutes into the mission but they had done a miscalculation and we just got them out in time without getting fried like chips. It actually hit at 63 minutes in to the mission they all just got out in time.

We gave instructions to everyone to be calm and line up in two’s and slowly reload onto the space ship. They got out at 62 minutes and 30 seconds with 30 seconds to spare.

We met up and we changed out of our jump suits off and we had lunch. After lunch we had to put on lab coats on and we went into the lab and did confirmation and analysis of the materials we collected. We confirmed them and had to work out how old they were and where they came from. As well as what life there was on Mars, at the end of our lab session we combined all our work to get a more accurate analysis. Overall the day was good and interesting to understand what geologists do and how they work in their fields of study. It was also interesting seeing how the communication works between Space and Earth for the better and how things interrupt the signals with lag and everything. Over all, lots of good fun.

By Josiah Walker
**Scientist In Schools**  
Scientist In Schools partner Dr Catherine Kennedy gave a very interesting and inspiring talk on the life of a research scientist.  

Last year Catherine provided laboratory sessions and talks until going on maternity leave. On August 14th she launched National Science Week with her talk on Immunology and Microbiology and in particular bacteria which produce light, to our Year 8 students.  

The students asked many questions and clearly found it a valuable experience to meet a practicing scientist active in research in the important field of immunology and microbiology.  

**Wind Tunnel**  
Victorian Space Science Education Centre's Ian Christie delivered a high-tech Wind Tunnel for our VCE Physics students' 'Investigations in Flight'. We have the equipment for 2 weeks and the students will be measuring lift and drag for their designed airfoils. His expert talk on the physics of flight was engaging and was followed by demonstrations on how to use the equipment. Students will be using the wind tunnel at lunch time and after school as well as during class to maximise the time they have access to the equipment.
Mathematics is such an integral part of our everyday life, and is highly integrated into tasks that often we do not even identify and acknowledge it as numeracy. Sometimes the numeracy involved is just considered to be common sense: ‘How many pizzas to order?’ Am I better off buying the 2 litre bottle of soft drink or two 1.5 litre bottles?; ‘how many pieces do I need to cut the oranges into for each team member to get 3 pieces?’ – These examples all involve numeracy skills.

Below are some examples of numeracy in the workplace:

A carpenter may calculate the number of two-by-four studs needed in a wall of a given length, including extra two-by-fours needed around doors and windows and at the top and bottom of the wall.

Café owners estimate the time that it will take for a meal to be prepared, based on past knowledge and how busy the restaurant is, so that they can inform the clients.

Cleaners estimate the time to complete jobs. Factors to take into consideration include the extent of cleaning, the size of the building, problems encountered the last time and unforeseen factors such as pests.

Contractors prepare simple quotes for labour plus 10% GST. More complicated quotes include a percentage mark up for materials, a payment schedule and a discount for early payment.

An automotive mechanic is filling a 15 litre radiator. They calculate the volumes needed for a solution that is 60% coolant and 40% water.

Health care workers measure the height and weight of patients.

Chefs often need to scale recipes up or scale down using proportion.

There is an association between higher numeracy (& literacy) skills and better labour market outcomes (employment and salary)*. This suggests that with good numeracy skills you are more likely to be employed and earn more than someone with poor numeracy skills.

*Literacy and Numeracy Skills and Labour Market Outcomes in Australia, paper by Anthony Shomos and Matthew Forbes, Australian Government productivity commission
TALENTED FOOTBALLER VISITS YEAR 8 STUDENTS TO DISTRIBUTE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS.

On Tuesday the 21st of July, the talented Kade Answerth from the Oakleigh Chargers’ Football Team attended a special Year 8 assembly at South Oakleigh College. The purpose of the assembly was to reward our Year 8 students with their certificates of citizenship in order to acknowledge their efforts in taking part in events to help members of the outside community. This assembly was unique as it was opened by our Year 8 Captains, Eujeane Lee and Stephanie Mizzi, who posed two interesting questions to the students. These were, ‘When was the last time you helped a fellow student or member of the local community? When was the last time you volunteered to give up your time to help others?’ Our captains followed with a powerful introduction which resonated with all of our Year 8 students. These were:

“In our world today we are often influenced by our needs......our clothes......our phones......our achievements......! We often ignore the simple fact that others are struggling. Activities like the MAD WALKATHON helped raise $6000 for charities like the ‘State School Relief Fund’, ‘Wheelchairs for Kids’, ‘Poverty Awareness’ and the ‘Rainbow Orphanage Cambodia’. Receiving a certificate today will not only help when you’re applying for particular courses at University or at TAFE but in job interviews when an employer asks the crucial question, ‘What did you do at school to show you were a role-model, a leader who was willing to help others?’ This semester think about what you can do to be a recipient of a citizenship award, think about how you help others.”

GOOD DEED: South Oakleigh Secondary College students, including Eujeane, 14, Elizabeth, 15, and Stephanie, 14, raised more than $6000 for four charities – State Schools’ Relief Fund, Poverty Awareness, Wheelchairs For Kids and the Rainbow Orphanage in Cambodia – as part of their 15km Mission Action Day walkathon.
The next speaker was a rising star from the Oakleigh Chargers’ Football Team, Mr Kade Answerth. Some of his achievements include, ‘Oakleigh Chargers’ Premiership player 2014’, ‘Oakleigh Chargers’ Best and Fairest 2014’, ‘Game Development Officer for AFL Victoria 2015’. Kade took time out from his university studies to talk to our Year 8 students about the importance of leadership and good citizenship. Kade’s speech highlighted four aspects of achieving success which included getting involved in community events, working as a team, respecting others and sheer hard work.

Mr Ioannidis, our Year 8 Team Leader and organiser of the event, closed the assembly and congratulated the Year 8’s for showing the community that they can be role models and secondly for promoting South Oakleigh College in such a positive way. He stated, “As a school we walked 15 kilometres, raised $6000 for the underprivileged and showed what South Oakleigh can do when we come together as a group. We’re so very proud of all our award winners.”

The South Oakleigh College community would like to thank the Oakleigh Chargers’ Football Team and particularly, Mr Answerth for giving up his time from his university studies to send such positive messages to our students.
South Oakleigh Secondary College Names Art Gallery After Former Teacher Poppi O’Connor by: Troels Sommerville

South Oakleigh Secondary College’s new art gallery has been dedicated to former art teacher Poppi O’Connor. Source: News Limited.

POPPY O’Connor has always fought for art in schools and now her efforts have been recognised.

South Oakleigh Secondary College has named its recently opened visual arts gallery after the former art teacher.

Students will be able to hang and exhibit their artwork in the new gallery at the school, which excited the now-retired teacher.

“I decided when I was five years old — I remember it quite clearly — that I wanted to be an art teacher,” she said.

“I just love doing it, I couldn’t imagine a day going by without having a draw or a paint and that’s something I want to pass on to students.”

She started teaching at the school in 1984 and only put away her paints and pastels last year.

Through many years and name changes at the school, she butted heads with some principals over the merits of art.

“It was a hard fight with some of them and they would ask me what good art in school was and I’d have to battle with them,” she said.

“And when I left the job I thought that all the work I’d done had come to nothing, but this really shows that it was appreciated and that they value art.”

She still teaches art to those interested enough to ask, something she vowed to continue until she could no longer hold a brush.
Ryan O'Shea participated in Round 1 of the Australia-New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge this year during Brain Awareness Week in March. In Round 1 for Victoria 1000 students participated from 55 schools.

Ryan qualified to participate in the individual challenge of the Victorian State Final. This was on Wednesday 17th June and held at Melbourne Brain Centre, University of Melbourne. Questions in the quiz at the state final were based on “Brain Facts” 2012 Edition.

The day included an Individual Challenge to determine the 2015 ABBC Victorian Champion as well as tours of research laboratories and the Anatomy Gallery. Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty was the keynote speaker. Well done Ryan!

Swimming to give back
Since migrating to Australia, Anastasia Stavrinou has built a bright future for herself, selected to represent the Monash Division in backstroke. After being introduced to synchronised swimming at just seven years of age, Anastasia Stavrinou quickly developed a passion for being in the water. "I liked it straight away, because it was swimming and dancing at the same time," she tells with a laugh.

Although backstroke is a far cry from synchronised swimming, it's now the 18-year-old's stroke of choice. Taking out the number one title against her opponents, the South Oakleigh Secondary student is the representative of the Monash Division in the student swimming championships. Since migrating to Australia from Greece just four years ago, Anastasia has been steadily building herself a bright future.

Aside from her pursuit of swimming, she is currently completing her VCE studies, with her sights set on attending Monash University to study nursing and emergency health - an interest that was sparked at a 10-day camp near Patra. "They taught us first aid and the principles of the Red Cross. Then after that I went to many seminars of the Red Cross and I also helped with charities," she explains. "That's my dream - to be able to have the knowledge and be able to help people."

Her commitment to helping those less fortunate saw her chosen as the 2013 youth representative of the Greek Red Cross for the 58th Annual International Study and Friendship Camp in Austria, Vienna. Over the 15 days, Anastasia, along with another 24 youth representatives, discussed the topic of 'Youth acting on conflict by overcoming social barriers' - an inspiring experience for the then 16-year-old. Although the swimmer misses her homeland and would one day like to return, for now she says she is more than happy pursuing her many dreams Down Under. "When year 12 is over I want to start synchronised swimming again. It's one of my goals for 2016," she says.

(Extract from Neos Kosmos)
Our senior students have been attending University Open Days which are occurring throughout August. This is an excellent way for students to explore both the university environment and actual courses that they may wish to apply for. The Year 12 students are now starting their VTAC application process listing university courses that they wish to apply for. The following information will assist Year 12 students and their parents in the process.

- **VTAC APPLICATIONS** – Applications for university, VET and private provider courses for 2016 open on Monday 3 August through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre website. Any **Year 12 student** wishing to apply for courses needs to visit [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au). Timely applications close on 30 Sept. After that the application fee rises from $29 to $95. You can apply for up to 12 courses, placing them in the order you most want them. You will receive an offer early in 2016 for the highest course in your list for which you meet the requirements (e.g. ATAR). You will be able to change your application at various times from 3 August 2015 through to February 2016. Check out prerequisites and selection criteria for courses you are applying (e.g. interview, audition, folio presentation?).

- **SPECIAL ENTRY ACCESS SCHEME (SEAS)** – The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) 2016 Guide has a section about SEAS (p. 43-54), [www.vtac.edu.au/who/seas.html](http://www.vtac.edu.au/who/seas.html). Are you eligible for special consideration for your course application? There are **four categories of disadvantage**. **NOTE**: SEAS applications are made on the VTAC website, but can only be done after applying for courses (SEAS applications close: 6 October).

- **Upcoming Open Days**
  - Sunday 23 Aug. – Box Hill Institute; Deakin (Burwood); Victoria (Footscray)
  - Sunday 30 Aug – ACU (Ballarat); Federation (Ballarat & Gippsland)

**SPINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**

Affiliate of the Australian Orthopaedic Association

We recommend that girls in Years 7 & 9 participate in the NSDP by downloading the Self-Detection Brochure for Scoliosis. The brochure can be accessed directly via a link on the Scoliosis Australia home page at [www.scoliosis-australia.org](http://www.scoliosis-australia.org).

Scoliosis (spinal curvature) is an important health problem for adolescent girls and 25 per thousand are at risk of developing a significant curve. Three girls per thousand require active treatment (spinal brace or surgery). Because in the early stages the condition is most often asymptomatic, screening in the age range 11 – 13 years is a sound preventative health measure.

The website contains comprehensive credible information about the symptoms and treatment of scoliosis. Using the forum on our website, girls and their parents can obtain general advice from certified specialists who manage patients with spinal curvature.

Contact details are listed on the website.
Mr Adam Platenkamp
Performing Arts

PIRATES OF PENZANCE JR.
“Mastering the Exams” – Fundraising for “The Fred Hollows Foundation”

Newsletter Advertising Request

Dear Sir/Teacher,

To assist students in their preparations for their Year 11 and/or VCE examinations, we are running an examination skills program titled “Mastering the Exams.”

This program has been designed to provide students with beneficial skills that will help optimise examination performance, as well as strategies that will maximise concentration and learning. Many of the skills and techniques that will be addressed have been proven to cut down on study time and significantly improve marks, but are not known (or practised) by the majority of students. Please refer to the enclosed flyer for further information.

Valued at over $300 our “Mastering the Exams” lecture is free of charge. We do, however, require that students participating in this program make a $5.00 donation to “The Fred Hollows Foundation” charity representatives that will be in attendance on the day.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would make this program information available to your current Year 11 and Year 12 students.

Kind Regards,
The School For Excellence

What have past VCE students said about “Mastering the Exams”?

100% Of past students indicated that the skills and strategies covered on the day would definitely improve their examination marks.

97% Of attending students left the lecture feeling more confident about their forthcoming examinations.

94% Of students indicated that they learned important skills and strategies that they were not previously aware of!

Total Donated to Charity to Date = $289,810.15

The Fred Hollows Foundation

the school for excellence
Our SOSC BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Portal now has new models of Lenovo and Macbook laptops which will prepare you for 2016!


In the Portal we have the following Lenovo Windows Laptops:
1. Lenovo ThinkPad 11e 4GB/ 128GB Solid State Drive (SSD)
2. Lenovo ThinkPad 11e Yoga Touch 11.6 inch 4GB/128GB SSD
3. Lenovo x250 i3/4GB/128GB SSD
4. Lenovo 12.5 inch Yoga

And the following Apple Mac Laptops:
1. Apple MacBook Pro 13in 2.5GHz i5 / 2X2GB / 500GB / SuperDrive
2. Apple MacBook Pro 13' with Retina Display 2.7GHz 128GB
3. Apple MacBook Air 13’ 128GB
4. Apple MacBook Air 13’ 256GB
5. Apple MacBook 12' 256GB (Space Grey)

Please place your order TODAY!
PLAY CRICKET

Sunday Juniors U12 – U18
Starts 11 October
New Players Welcome

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