This term has had a number of important College events including our Athletics Carnival, Anzac Day, and Open Day.

**Open Night**
On Tuesday, 21st April 2016 the College was on show for Open Night. What an amazing night. The College new Science rooms were completed and the Fitness Centre ready to go. We had an excellent turn-up of prospective students and families who were impressed with the facilities, the displays of student work and the many presentations. These included the TV studio offering live debates, the Drama area presenting student performances, the Cutting Room open for business and the Technology area exploring the future with a Robotics display including ‘quad chopper’ and ‘drone’ technology.

There was much interest in the Accelerated Information Session. The Christine Strachan Theatre was overflowing as the Year 7 Captains, Dhruv Malge and Hana Hammoud, began the proceedings describing their short time at our school. The College Captains, Melissa Claydon and Elijah Buckland closed the formal part of the evening with their own reflections of being students at South Oakleigh College. Students are our greatest ambassadors and through their speeches our captains took the opportunity to showcase the school to our audience.

The focus of the night was our goal to educate the “whole child”. In addition to looking after the academic needs of our students, what sets South Oakleigh College apart is our focus on the social, physical and emotional development of all students. Academic excellence on its own is not enough for success in life. The dedicated team of staff at our school give their all to ensure that our vision for the future of every student is realised.
Whilst everyone in the school community worked together, I want to acknowledge the contribution of Mrs Pelitidis in her Transition Coordinator role and Ms Stamatelatos, both of whom demonstrated endless enthusiasm and energy over the past months in planning and coordinating Open Night.

I felt privileged and proud to have the opportunity to highlight the values and opportunities at our outstanding school.

**Anzac Day**
On Monday 25th April our College Captains accompanied me to lay a wreath at the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph in Oakleigh. It was a proud moment for all as we paid our respects to those who have given their lives to provide us with the opportunity to live freely in Australia today.

**Athletics Carnival**
Congratulations to Grevillea who won the Athletics Carnival this year. It was a fantastic effort by all students competing on the day and particularly those who enthusiastically supported their House members. There will be more about the Athletics Carnival in the Sports report.

Helen Koziaris
Principal
Term 2 has kicked off to a busy and exciting start with many events taking place over the first three weeks.

**Open Night**
Open Night was a show of the connectedness and strength within the College Community and was well attended and supported by many guests. On behalf of the College we would like to thank, and congratulate, the extraordinary number of student helpers who volunteered to be a part of this event.

**House Carnivals**
Congratulations to Mr Teazis and the PE Staff who organised a fantastic House Athletics Carnival on Wednesday April 27th. The track was filled with athletes participating in their house colours and the students in the grandstand were vocal in support of their team mates. A special thank you to all staff who were busy raking pits, measuring shot put, discus and javelin attempts, recording place judging, providing First Aid, supervising, coaching and cheering. Thanks to the SRC for providing a sausage/veg burger sizzle on the day.

**Semester One Exams**
Senior School Exams: Thursday 2nd—Thursday 9th June
Middle School Exams: Monday 6th—Friday 10th June

“Failing to Prepare is preparing to Fail”

Semester One exams are fast approaching and many students have taken the initiative in preparing positively for the exams. Sharing notes, quizzing each other and regularly approaching staff for additional support/understanding are just some of the ways that students can prepare.

Mr Denver will publish an exam timetable on Compass Newsfeed for all families to access.

**NAPLAN**
NAPLAN tests will be held from Tuesday 10th—Thursday 12th May for all Year 7 and 9 students in the Library. The process consists of five tests (Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and two Numeracy Tests (with calculator and non-calculator). Students should ensure they have all relevant materials (e.g. a calculator).

If parents have any questions regarding the NAPLAN tests, please contact Ms Pelitidis at the College.

**Uniform Expectations**
All students are expected to wear their winter uniform (including blazers and ties) when travelling to and from school. Students in Years 7—10 are allowed to wear their PE uniform during the school day when they have a timetabled practical class only.
PREMIERS AWARD – Magdalini Maligani – Year 12
On Thursday 28th April the Principal, Ms Koziaris and I had the pleasure of attending the 2016 Premier’s Awards presentations at the Crown Palladium. These awards are presented to the top students in each of the 2015 VCE Subjects. We were thrilled that South Oakleigh College student Magdalini Maligani, a Year 11 student in 2015, received a Premier’s Award for VCE Units 3&4 Greek.

On behalf of the entire school community, I congratulate Magdalini on receiving the coveted Premier’s Award. Magdalini was also the overall top achieving South Oakleigh College Year 11 student in 2015. We wish her all the best with her Year 12 VCE.

2016 GAT (General Achievement Test)
All VCE students enrolled in at least one 2016 Unit 3&4 VCE or VCE/VET Study are required to sit the 2016 GAT (General Achievement Test).
The 2016 GAT Brochure produced by the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority) can be downloaded from our Compass Newsfeed or the VCAA website.
Students will have several opportunities to improve their skills in preparation for sitting the GAT.
The 2016 GAT will be conducted at school on Tuesday 7 June—10.00 am to 1.15 pm in the library.
**Year 8 Study Skills**

Our Year 8 cohort continues to focus on *High Expectations*. Last year they participated in their first Study Skills seminar which discussed how best to study. This included creating a study timetable and steps to success. This year we built on this theme with techniques for exams, focusing on the upcoming mid-year exams.

Darren Pereira addressed our students, invigorating them with his presentation *5 steps to effective study*. His seminar included study skills tips, a homework plan, music that encourages study, note-taking techniques and more.

Our students will attend study seminars every year until they reach VCE. This will enable us to track their progress and ensure that the necessary skills are developed for success in year 12.

**Year 7 Incursion: Brainstorm Productions**

Recently Year 7 students watched a moving presentation on Bullying. Sitting in the gym while the play was performed around them, two actors told the story of a young boy who became a bully because of events on his first day at school. They followed the boy’s journey and were able to empathise and place themselves in his shoes. It was a powerful presentation, resonating with both students and teachers. We learnt about the ‘flight or fight’ technique and how to use it in our lives.
Legal Studies County and Magistrates Court Visits

On Friday March 11 the Unit 1 Legal Studies class visited the Melbourne Court precinct as part of their study of The Law in Action.

After being ushered into our first courtroom we were addressed by the Tipstaff (the person responsible for maintaining order in the courtroom). This was followed by the presiding Judge (Murphy) addressing the group regarding current issues as well as cases involving drugs and driving accidents resulting in culpable driving charges being laid (and prison terms being served).

The group next moved to a court where we watched a case proceed. We were addressed by Judge (Allen) who informed us that he was a member of JAWS (Judges Against WigS). In detailing the case before him, Judge Allen extensively outlined the way the law takes into account how people convicted of serious crimes can show the court that sometimes, non-custodial sentences are the most appropriate.

Later at the Melbourne Magistrates Court students witnessed a further range of cases including costs being claimed by a pedestrian against a motorist, a charge of littering (anonymously reported) being defended and the application for release by a prisoner via video-link.

Overall, students found the experience to be an eye-opener and great complement to their Legal Studies.
On Open night in the Arts and Design Department, past students supported current students and demonstrated their achievements outside of school.

Visitors were welcomed into our classrooms and invited to sit down and draw. Parents and prospective students learnt why drawing is an essential part of a holistic education. Why draw? For education: Handwriting, eye/hand coordination, creativity and personal expression, problem solving, relaxation and to focus confidence. Drawing also enhances cross-cultural understanding by using various cultural symbols: Indian henna patterns, Celtic knotting, Zuni pottery, Maori tattoos or Islamic tiling.

We also draw for therapy, in study groups, for gifts as collectibles, artistic expression, motivational training, entertainment and, most importantly, communication.

For the first time, Open Night explored the idea of the "X-hibits"; a group of ex-students and staff who discuss inspirations, motivations, new ideas and art/design online as well as their time at South Oakleigh College. For Open Night they exhibited their work in the Poppi O’Connor Gallery.

Thanks to Poppi O’Connor, Zoe Keystone who sent work from Vietnam and Petrina Gatsos, who displayed her folios from 2012 VCE to 2016 second year Communication Design at Monash. Thanks also to Erin Deverell, Megan Cheng, Sadie Morrell and Matene MacWilliam for their contribution to the X-hibiters community.
Arts & Design Open Night Cont...
Senior Studio Art and Design students visit Warhol & WeiWei

Term 1, a busy time for the art department, finished with an excursion for senior Studio Art and Visual Communication students to see Andy Warhol and Ai Weiwei, two of the most significant artists of the twentieth and twenty first centuries:

The artworks were fascinating – students saw iconic Warhol screen-prints up close and personal. The scale of the work was fantastic and the way the gallery combined the works from two different artists impressive. Warhol’s work is well known and many of his most famous pieces were there, such as the Campbell’s soup cans, Brillo boxes and his portraits of celebrities.

The incredible work of Ai Weiwei was often political – ranging from serious protest works against the Chinese government and the way it manages its citizens, to playful photography and lots of video work. Much of his contemporary work involves social media.

The exhibition highlight was playing in the ‘kids’ section of the exhibition. Students helped little ones build forts out of Warhol-styled ‘Brillo boxes’ and enjoyed taking a series of selfies in photo booths that were then put through a computer algorithm to create a gridded Warhol style portrait. We also played with floating Weiwei balloons. A fantastic experience!

After lunch we made our way up to the NGV Australia in Federation Square to see the Top Arts exhibition. This is a showcase of last year’s top Art and Studio Art pieces. There were some excellent pieces and students had an opportunity to look at the folios of some of the work.

All up it was a hectic but successful excursion. I look forward to seeing what the NGV will be exhibiting next year!
Physics students attend University of Melbourne Physics lecture

On Thursday 17th March six enthusiastic Physics students enjoyed an evening lecture on Thermodynamics at the University of Melbourne. They had the opportunity to get a taste of university life: strolling through the university grounds, sharing a meal at the student centre, perusing student magazine ‘Farago’ and then attending the lecture delivered by Professor Andrew Lamb, an expert in his field.

Later in the year I plan to organise for students to hear and meet the great Astrophysicist, Professor Rachel Webster. This will be of particular interest to Manan Behal from Year 9, who has her sights firmly focussed on becoming an astronaut.

Well done, Manan Behal, Megan Robinson, Aneesh Yellishetty, PrathikBalachandar, Yvonne Davarinos and Jurmi Dorji for attending.
**Term 2 assembly**

As College Captains, we ran the assembly for the first day back for Term 2 and each gave a speech regarding the upcoming school year. It was good to see that students were excited to be back and ready to fulfil the high expectations set by the school. The atmosphere in the assembly was promising with both students and teachers ready to rise to the occasion, while, for year 12’s, also crossing the line.

Below are the speeches that we gave at the assembly.

**Melissa**

Good morning staff and fellow students and welcome back to the college for another exciting term. We hope that you have all enjoyed a well-earned break over the holidays and feel re-energised to tackle the new challenges that this term will bring.

For the 7-9s, all of you will be facing different challenges this term. Of course in the middle of June you will be having Semester 1 exams. For Year 7s this will be your first exams, and you will learn the study techniques that work best for you, something which 8s and 9s are also still developing.

I encourage all of you to talk to your teachers when you don’t understand something as they are your best resource. I also wish to extend my good wishes to the 7s and 9s who will also be sitting the NAPLAN tests in the middle of May. I’m sure all of you will do well and represent yourself and our school to the best of your ability.

**Elijah**

In order to be successful in school, you need to cross the line. To be successful in school, you need to always do your best, aim to achieve, and always rise to the occasion. What you must not do, is say that I can’t, or this is too hard. For the senior school, many of you always attempt to rise to the occasion. But for the percentage of students that do not try their best, I ask you this: Are you really giving it your all? Benjamin Franklin once said that “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest”.

Many of you think that education will not matter in the future. Many of you think that coming to school is a waste of time. But I tell you now, if you truly want to stand out from the crowd, education is the big decider. That is why our school has the motto “Knowledge conquers all”. This phrase is in place to help us to succeed in our education. It is there to push us to our limits, to always try our best. It is there to make us realise that if you have a strong education, nothing is impossible in terms of what you can achieve.

You are all unique shining stars. The brightness of these stars is determined by how much you want achieve. If you are not attempting to do your best in your education, then your star will not shine as much as it could. But if you rise to the occasion, and aim to achieve to the best of your abilities your individual, unique light will truly conquer all other stars. But the sky is large. There is room for more than one bright star.
If you are thinking that you will never be good in your subject, or that you cannot beat the number one student, then you are wrong. We do not know what the future holds in store for us. Never presume what is going to happen. If you rise to the occasion, and cross the line, the results will amaze you. We can further enhance our learning if we, as a college, put our mind to our education. If we help each other, aim to achieve, and shine our lights to the best of our abilities I tell you now, we can truly light up the sky.

Years 10, 11, & 12, the mid semester exams are creeping up on us. This is your chance to show your teacher who is the brightest star. This is a chance to show yourself what you can achieve, and what the expected standard is. In order to be successful in the mid semester exams, set achievable goals and practice good study habits. This will enable you to fulfil the high expectations that are set for these exams.

For the students undertaking VCE Subjects, if your SAC scores were not as you expected them to be, do not worry. You have time to turn the tables. You have time to be the student that you truly want to be. Use the emotion of not achieving the result that you wanted, and make it into a story of success. VCE is like a race. A race which feels like it will never end. A race where you are competing against the rest of the students in the state of Victoria.

During the race you may face challenges. There may be times where it feels like you should exit the race. But keep going. Don’t give up. Always try your best. Because once you cross the line of victory, you will feel success. You will truly understand that all those months of sweat and hard work has truly paid off. Nelson Mandela once said that “if you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy”. Then he becomes your partner. In terms of the senior school, our enemy is our mind. Our mind always tells us that we should put something off, when we know that it needs to be completed. Our mind tells us that nothing bad will happen if we do not complete work, where in fact deep down we know that it is the exact opposite. This is why we need to work with our minds. We need to motivate ourselves to do the work to the best of our abilities. Because once we train our minds to work, excuses will no longer exist, and the physical and the mental will come together to form the person that achieves success in their education.

I want each and every one of you to go home tonight, and think about what you can do better. I want you to think about how you can achieve that top result. I want you to realise how you can truly bring out the best in yourself and cross the line. Because believe me when I say this, one cannot cross the line until you rise to the occasion. I would like to conclude our speech with a quote from Sydney J Harris: “the whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows”.

South Oakleigh College is here for a reason. It is here to prepare us for life. It is here to provide us with opportunities that bring out the best in each and every one of us. And most importantly, it is here, to provide us with an education that will truly conquer all.
Eastern Metropolitan Regional Swimming Finals
The following girls competed at the EMR swimming finals at Aquanation Leisure Centre in Ringwood on 23rd March: Theano-Christina Salta, Samantha Miller, Efthymia Delichristou and Lilit Dabagyan.

Although they did not qualifying for the state swimming championships, all girls were encouraged and congratulated for their efforts.

South Oakleigh College House Athletics Carnival – 2016
South Oakleigh College held their annual House Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 27th April. The warm autumn conditions were ideal for participation across the wide variety of events on offer at the upgraded Duncan McKinnon Reserve in Murrumbeena.

Congratulations to all students who participated and to those who turned up to support their peers. Thanks also to the SRC for the BBQ and to staff for their hard work, making the day both enjoyable and successful.

The results were as follows:

1st Grevillea – 712 points
2nd Acacia – 693 points
3rd Waratah – 647 points
4th Banksia – 534 points
Well done everyone!
**CAREERS**

**VCE and Careers Expo 2016**

All VCE students are encouraged to attend the upcoming VCE and Careers Expo at the Caulfield Racecourse from Thursday 5 – Saturday 8 May 2016.

There will be over 180 exhibitors providing material about:

- Information and resources for the VCE
- Information about university, TAFE and training courses
- Career advice
- Study advice
- International exchange and gap year programs

There will also be 150 seminars on topics including:

- VCE subjects: English, Maths, Biology, Psychology, Health and Human Development
- Tertiary courses
- Careers
- Gap year options

General admission tickets are $10.00 per person and are valid for all four days. Visit [The VCE and Careers Expo](#) to find out more.

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**UMAT2016**

Year 12 students are reminded that registrations for UMAT2016 close on **Friday 3 June 2016 at 5.00pm** sharp. The UMAT2016 will be held on **Wednesday 27 July 2016**, and the results will be available late September 2016. Students should also note that results from UMAT2016 can only be used for undergraduate medicine or health science courses beginning in 2017 but not 2018. Students should not register for UMAT2016 unless they are planning to apply for a course commencing in 2017 and they meet the eligibility criteria specified in the UMAT2016 Information Booklet.

For more information, and/or to apply visit [UMAT2016](#) or call (03) 8508 7643.
Career in Project Management

There are many similar definitions of what a project manager does. One useful website, Target Jobs UK - Project Management, states that project managers “ensure the project is completed on time and within budget, that the project's objectives are met and that everyone else is doing their job properly. Projects are usually separate to usual day-to-day business activities and require a group of people to work together to achieve a set of specific objectives. Project managers oversee the project to ensure the desired result is achieved, the most efficient resources are used and the different interests involved are satisfied”.

The typical industries that project manager’s are employed in are:

- Construction companies
- Architects
- Software producers
- Commercial retailers
- Engineering firms
- Manufacturers
- Public sector organisations
- Aviation
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

It was this beautiful but often haunting poem that was spoken by thousands across Australia on the 25th of April, Anzac Day; a day where we commemorate the brave sacrifice of the men and women that made up the ANZACs who landed at Gallipoli in 1915. It was with great honour that Ms Koziaris, Elijah and I represented South Oakleigh College at the Oakleigh-Carnegie RSL Dawn Service, held at the Warrawee Park Cenotaph in Oakleigh. The service included messages of remembrance for those lost, and messages of support for those still serving our country.

However the most eye-opening message was for those who have served, but left active duty. The MC of the service, the president of the Oakleigh-Carnegie RSL, informed the attendees of his passion to help those who experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), after it was revealed that one former soldier dies every week due to PTSD.

After laying a wreath at the steps of the Cenotaph in remembrance, we watched as members of the honour guard commenced the gun salute in honour of those fallen, after which the Last Post was heard. This was followed by a minute’s silence.

We had arrived when the sky was still black and starry and once we left the sky had begun to take on its early morning blue. While early and cold, my first dawn service is one I will never forget. If you haven’t been to one, I encourage you to attend at least once in your life.
Cathy Freeman Foundation Schools’ Leadership Summit

Education is the only gift that lasts a lifetime – we take this for granted.

Melissa and I were given the opportunity to attend the Cathy Freeman Foundation Schools’ Leadership Summit on Wednesday 13 April with other schools in the south eastern suburbs. The presentation by Cathy and her team provided information about the Foundation, whose primary purpose is to close the education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children.

The Foundation has partnered with four remote Indigenous communities across Australia to assist students to focus on their education and increase future opportunities. The summit enlightened us about life in a remote Indigenous community and made us aware of the huge education gap existing within Australia.

The Foundation relies on financial support from donations, including fundraising activities within communities and schools. Our school will now consider fundraising for the Cathy Freeman Foundation. We will also investigate how South Oakleigh College can become involved to help close the educational gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Cathy Freeman describes her work as letting people realise their own potential is what is most satisfying.

To find out about how to contribute to the Cathy Freeman Foundation, or to learn more about the educational gap existing in Australia, visit the foundation’s website:
http://www.cathyfreemanfoundation.org.au

We would like to thank Miss Asyo for attending the seminar with us, and for assisting in writing this article.
Girls Leadership Day with the Hon Claire O’Neill MP and the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP

On 22nd of April we represented South Oakleigh College at a Girls Leadership Presentation held by politicians, the Honourable Claire O’Neill MP and the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP. They spoke about what it's like to be a woman amongst all the male politicians. This included their experiences in Parliament and the progress being made due to the increasing number of female politicians.

They explained some of the inequalities that women have had to face in the past in what was seen as a male dominated profession. For example, when ladies first began to enter politics they were forced to use the visitors’ restrooms as there were only male restrooms available. Also, if women were standing in the corridors the men walking past would whisper about women politicians in a derogatory way.

Ms O’Neill and Ms Plibersek also spoke about how they are trying to change gender payroll to make it equitable for all female workers.

Their presentation was inspirational. They encouraged girls to pursue their dreams in what they want to do for a living—and especially to join politics if they want to make a structural change to the world!

Caitlin McDonald (Year 10), Ebony Paolini (Year 10) & Katherine Demosthenous (Year 11)