



**Newsletter Issue No 8
December 2017**

IMPORTANT DATES

December 2017

22 Last Day of Term 4

January 2018

30 First Day of Term 1

Year 7 Induction

February

1 Peer Support Training

6 House Swimming Carnival

7-9 Year 7 Camp - Phillip Island

13 Year 7 Information Evening

19 Year 11 and 12 Interschool Sport

20 School Photos

21-23 Year 9 Camp

March

1 Monash Divisional Swimming

5-7 Year 12 Retreat - Cowes

7 Year 9 and 10 Interschool Sport

12 Labour Day Public Holiday

19-23 Cultural Diversity Week

22 Parent Student Teacher Conferences

23 Year 7 and 8 Interschool Sport

Cultural Food Festival

27 EMR Swimming Carnival

28 CAD Walkathon

29 Last Day of Term 1



PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Congratulations to Year 12 students on their results

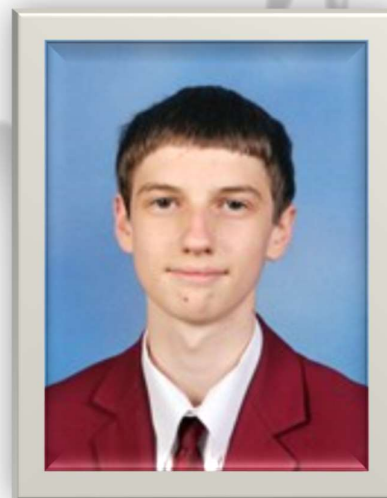
We are delighted that our 2017 VCE results have improved on the previous year, and we extend our congratulations to all students who completed their VCE. We thank staff for their commitment to, and support of our Year 12 students during their six years at South Oakleigh College, as we continue to motivate and encourage every student to realise their potential



Every year has its challenges and triumphs but we remain relentless in our goal to improve learning outcomes for every student. By providing each child with a comprehensive educational experience geared to their individual needs, we ensure they achieve their best at all times.



Congratulations Ryan O'Shea



2017 DUX

Initiatives for the New Year

Guided by recommendations from the School Review, the College Principal Team and staff are:

- Enrolling and orienting new students to our college
- Working with student leaders to guide our school over the coming year
- Commencing the 2018 academic year through the Head Start program
- Reflecting on what we do to improve as individual educators and as a school working within our community.

Next year will see some changes to our internal structure:

- Focusing and developing the House System
- Providing further student leadership and voice opportunities
- Continuing the Masterplan to improve all areas of the College including facilities, curriculum opportunities, community experiences and wellbeing practices for our students.

Staff farewells

We would like to recognise and thank a number of staff for their contribution to the College:

Mr Ian Denver has been head of senior school and successfully supported many of our VCE students into their chosen pathways.

Ms Annette Ford has worked tirelessly as our Student Wellbeing Coordinator for many years and will be missed by both students and staff.

For the past two years **Ms Felicity Atkin**, **Ms Kaitlyn Morris** and **Mr Tom Sharp** have enriched the educational opportunities for students with their innovative teaching programs. We wish them well in the next phase of their careers.

Partnership between school and home

The partnership between school and home is crucial to ensure our students achieve optimal educational outcomes. Parents who reinforce our expectations regarding attendance, punctuality and homework, and who encourage their child regarding our school values of high expectations, respect, responsibility, resilience and teamwork, maximise their child's opportunity to achieve success. This partnership makes a real difference to the future of each child and we thank parents for their commitment and support of our College.

Finally, we thank all staff for their professionalism, dedication and efforts throughout the year in developing imaginative educational programs for our students.

We wish all members of the South Oakleigh College community a safe and happy Festive Season and look forward to working with you in 2018.

Ms Helen Koziaris
Principal

Mr Tony Katsianos
Assistant Principal

Mr Mark Picone
Assistant Principal





PRESENTATION NIGHT 2017

Presentation Night enabled the school to show-case its plethora of achievements over the past year, whilst providing another opportunity to farewell the *Class of 2017*.

The evening opened with the recently formed South Oakleigh band playing the National Anthem; just one of the inspiring musical items.

Principal Ms Helen Koziaris and College Council President Mr Steven Demosthenous described the breadth of accomplishments at our school. This comprises academic success at all levels, achievements on the sporting field, a range of student leadership experiences, and the benefits of the new House System. They also portrayed the numerous opportunities students have to achieve creatively: involvement in Instrumental music groups, participation in *South Oakleigh's Got Talent* and being part of the extraordinarily successful school Production, *Avenue Q*.

They described how the college is embracing the new frontier of STEM, with some students in July travelling to NASA at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston. This incredible experience allowed them to embrace Science and explore space from the heart of the world's leading space program.

Additionally, in 2018, the school will adopt a 21st Century Learning Design Framework and all students in Years 7 and 10 will have a tablet laptop. This will provide opportunities for them to build their digital literacy and continue to develop skills for success in the 21st Century.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation by Ms Kate Gillespie-Jones, an elite athlete, player at the Carlton Football Club AFLW and past student of the College. Kate spoke about the two key aspects of her life: studying for her PhD into brain trauma and her passion for football. Kate played in the first-ever game of women's footy; an overwhelming experience of adrenalin, crowds, cheering and noise. It was not until Carlton won, at the end of the game, that she fully appreciated the magnitude of the moment.

Kate described the importance of our school values, particularly High Expectations and Resilience. Both these values guide her and are needed to ensure her success, both within the university and on the footy field.

Finally, there was a presentation to all students of the *Class of 2017*. With VCE results out the following morning the entire school community wished our graduates well, confident in the knowledge that South Oakleigh had equipped them with the skills and experiences to embark on highly successful careers in the 21st Century.

Ms Alison Jones
Publicity and Marketing





Presentation Night 2017

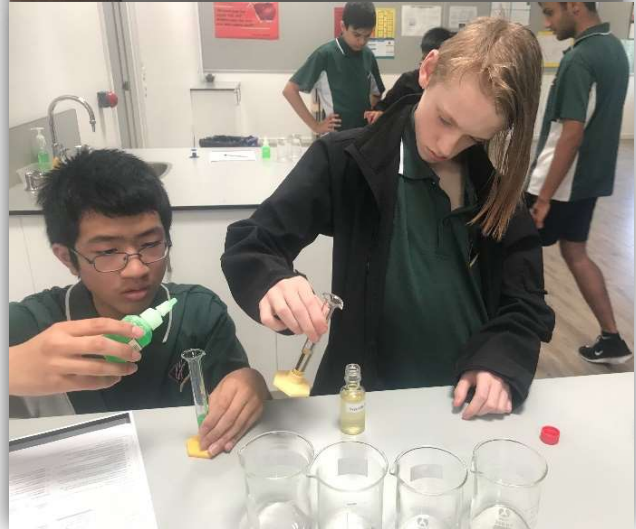
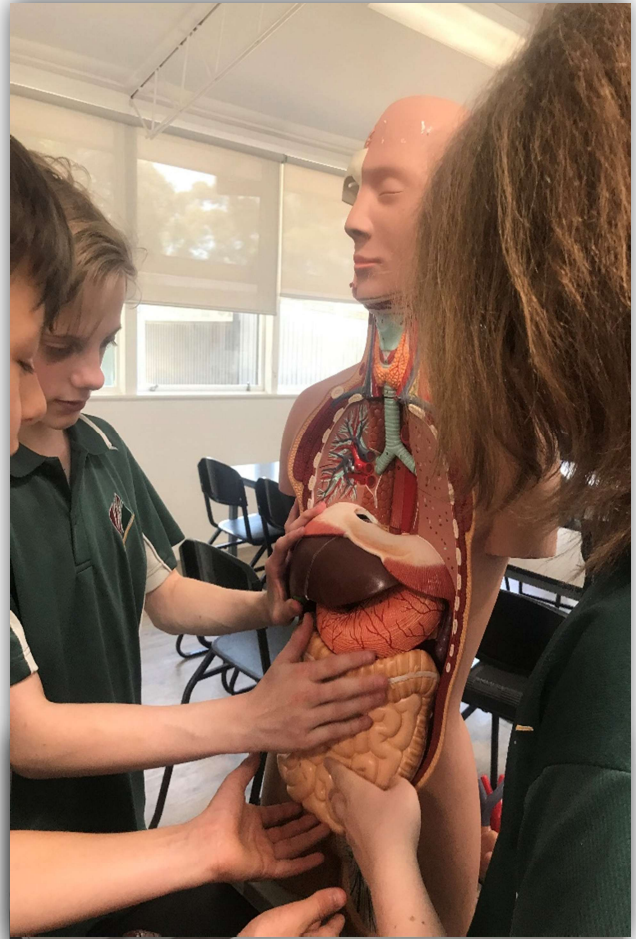




KLA SCIENCE

Year 8 Science students have been studying body systems, including the Digestive System. Recently, 8B students investigated the liver which produces a mixture of chemicals including bile, used to digest fat and neutralise stomach acid. Bile is stored in the gall bladder until food reaches the small intestine and then released. Using vegetable oil, animal fat and detergent, students modelled the effects of bile and demonstrated how the liver breaks down fats and oils, including hot greasy potato chips!

Ms Alison Jones
Science teacher





KLA JAPANESE

Doughnut Sushi lessons

Sushi in the shape of a doughnut? Yes, *Doughnut Sushi* is a new trend taking the world by storm.

Sushi, one of the most famous dishes outside Japan, is also popular amongst the Japanese and it has evolved in unique ways. *Doughnut Sushi* is one of them.

Students studied the preparation of sushi: how to cook rice, the way fish is cut and cured, and how to present it with style. They also learned about the traditional sushi restaurant in Tokyo that won three Michelin stars.

Year 9 students put what they learned into action but with a modern twist, making *Doughnut Sushi* with their own individual decorative designs.

Mr Hatsu Watanabe Japanese Teacher



KLA ART AND TECHNOLOGY

At the recent Arts night, students had the opportunity to display their art in a range of mediums including sculpture, photography, painting, print, fashion and textiles. A film loop showed students' work-in-progress and included excerpts from *Avenue Q* and student films. Sam Pigdon and Jack Shand added atmosphere to the evening with a brass performance.

It was a pleasure to see such high-quality student designs on display, and I thank all Art students who worked so hard this year.

Ms Peta Close Head of Art and Technology



POPPI O'CONNOR
GALLERY



KLA ART AND TECHNOLOGY

Spring Concert

On 17 September South Oakleigh College held its inaugural Spring Concert, featuring all of the SOC Instrumental Ensembles and a number of featured soloists. We were also excited to unveil our new Grand Piano and vocal group the *Choral Risers*, who bring a new and bold presence to the Music Department, and gave a real shine to the evening both musically and visually.

The Spring Concert featured over eighty students as part of nine ensembles, including the Choir, Concert Band, Woodwind Ensemble, Keyboard Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and Contemporary Ensemble. These ensembles are directed by our Instrumental Music staff: Rachel Sifris, Sean Smyth, Ting Lo, Michele Goninon, Liam Werrett and Aidan Prewett.

The night was brought to a stunning close with a combined item, *Roar*, performed by over forty members of various ensembles.

The Spring Concert also gave rise to a new SOC tradition, the announcement of Music Captains. Congratulations to Harry Sakeslidis and Elisavet Stavrinou who will lead their peers throughout SOC Music events in 2018.

With this fantastic new instrumental team our music program will continue to grow over the coming years. These new resources demonstrate that our music department is a force to be reckoned with, and another imitative that sets South Oakleigh College apart from other schools.

Mr Aiden Prewett
Art and Technology Teacher





HOUSE CUP CHAMPIONS, 2017

The SOC Overall House Champion award is no longer restricted to the results tallied from annual sporting competitions. Our students are now recognised for their contribution to, and participation in, **all** areas of our College including the wider community.

The overall totals of each house are;

Grevillea:	6331
Waratah:	5849
Banksia:	5340
Acacia:	4985

In total, **22,505 house points** were awarded in the following areas:

CAD Walkathon fundraising totals	Harmony Day Bake Sale and performances	House Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country results
House Dodgeball Competition results	IDAHOBIT Day Bake Sale and performances	Avenue Q cast, crew and puppet constructors
Individual and Team sporting representations	Debating Club participation	Running Club participation
House Reading Challenge	Peer Support participation	SOC's Got Talent performers, backstage crew and award winners
University of New South Wales Writing, Science, English and Mathematics Competitions	History and Geography Competitions	Community Service Recognition
Special Awards eg. Arts Recognition	House Challenge Week	



Congratulations to Grevillea: Head of House Andrea Carmody and house leaders, Zion Nelthropp and Katerina Moshopoulos

Ms Laura O'Reilly
Head of Health and PE

RUNNING CLUB 2017

At 7:30am every Friday morning, the SOC Running Club brought together over twenty-five students from varying year levels who ran together to improve fitness, train for athletic events and start their day feeling energised and enthusiastic.

As a squad, we have run over 120 kilometres. To put this in perspective, our runners have accumulated enough distance to take them from the SOC front office, to the beach at Rosebud and back. Every kilometre ran this year, whether it be a personal best time or a physical battle, was an achievement. On days when some of us did not feel our best, we gained motivation and momentum from the positive people around us.

Our team would like to thank Ms Asyo, Mr. Blattman and Ms O'Reilly for pacing the runs, carrying the bulky first aid kits, and holding the blaring UE Boom speaker. We also acknowledge Mr. Picone, who waved to us each morning from his desk as we ran by, and we invite him to join us at a session!

With our eye on 2018, we are looking forward to developing new personal and group fitness goals and growing stronger as a group. The annual South Oakleigh House Cross Country competition will provide a platform for our runners to show-case their hard work and dedication.

The SOC Running Club will also be entering its first public event as a team, the 2018 *Run for the Kids*. The primary aim of this occasion is to raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. All runners of any ability are welcome to participate in this exciting event, to be held on Sunday 18 March.

Finally, to any student or teacher wanting to make a positive impact on their personal fitness or challenge their body's limits, we look forward to seeing you at 7:30am every Friday morning next year!



Front: Cameron Robinson, Emily Vincent, Seline Dogrusever, Yousef Altuwayjiri, Omar Dogrusever, Naomi Gui- Belstead
Back: Miss O'Reilly, Esther Walker, Cayla Kingsley, Andre de Vries, Megan Robinson, Josiah Walker, Mr. Blattman
Notable absences: Ethan Walker, Miss Asyo

Ms Laura O'Reilly
Head of Health and PE



STUDENT SERVICES AND WELLBEING

I was appointed Head of the Student Services/Wellbeing team at the commencement of Term 4, my fourth school in a career spanning 35 years. I have held numerous leadership roles over the years, including Coordinator of English, VET and VCAL, Year Level Coordinator, Staff Professional Development leader, Sub School Manager in Junior, Middle and Senior Schools and was Student Welfare Coordinator at Mount Waverley Secondary College. I also held the role of Assistant Principal and Head of Junior School at Mount Waverley Secondary College and more recently, was Head of Junior School and Student Services at Scoresby Secondary College.

I have also been involved in many community groups and organisations but my greatest passion is the work I do in schools. I enjoy engaging with students, staff and parents and relish the opportunity to make a difference to a young person's life. I look forward to working positively with many South Oakleigh students and their families.

Aim of Student Services and Wellbeing

South Oakleigh College aims to provide and maintain a safe, respectful and supportive environment and to create a culture where all members of the school community recognise the significant role they have in contributing to an individual's wellbeing.

Student Services/Wellbeing plays a crucial role in ensuring our school community is respectful, diverse and caring, so every student has the opportunity to develop their individual interests and strengths.

Student Services and Wellbeing Team

The Student Services Team is collaborative, consisting of:

- Director of Student Services, **Mr Michael Alexis**
- Adolescent Health Nurse, **Ms Brittany Whitelock**
- Chaplain, **Mr Alex Flavel**
- Integration Coordinator, **Ms Shirley McNamara**
- Visiting DET Psychologists, Social Workers, Speech Pathologists
- Outreach workers from a range of Community Agencies

Our team offers one-on-one support to students, who either self-refer or are referred by a staff member or parent.

The team also organise whole school programs that benefit the wider cohort of students with a variety of activities, including guest speakers.

CSEF (Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund)

CSEF, provided by the Victorian Government, aims to ensure every child has the opportunity to participate in all external school programs including camps, sport and excursions. The fund assists eligible families cover the cost of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. A special consideration category exists for asylum seeker and refugee families.

The allowance, paid directly to the school, is for expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for eligible families. For concession card holders, CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of Term 1 (Tuesday 30 January 2018) or Term 2 (Monday 16 April 2018).

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

How to apply

Once an application has been submitted the school will rollover this information for future years.

However, another application needs to be submitted for:

-Students new to the school.

-A change in family circumstances such as a change of custody, name or CRN, or new siblings commencing at the school. Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Mr Michael Alexis

Director of Student Services and Wellbeing





CAREERS

Work Experience

In 2018, all Year 10 students must complete a Work Experience placement. This program enables students to enter the workplace for a week to investigate a career.

Completing work experience assists students in determining possible career paths and allows them to gain first-hand knowledge of the work place.

Students can organize their placement throughout the course of the year, although an early placement is recommended. Work Experience will not be approved on important college dates.

To facilitate the running of the program, all paperwork should be completed at least two weeks prior to commencement. This is to ensure a suitable position and to confirm all legal requirements. Students should complete the www.education.vic.gov.au/safe@work/ module during the holidays.

Students can access the *South Oakleigh College Work Experience Booklet* through Compass (Resources) to assist with the work experience process.

UMAT2018

Students commencing Year 12 in 2018, and planning to apply for any of the following university courses - **Courses requiring the UMAT** - are reminded that part of selection into these courses requires that students sit the *UMAT – Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test*. Students might like to browse [UMAT Preparation Strategy](#). Applications open early in December 2017.

For more information and/or to apply, visit [UMAT2018](#) or call (03) 8508 7643.

News from Monash University

What happens if something occurs after the VTAC SEAS deadline?

In the case of a student experiencing educational disadvantage since the SEAS closing date in October, Year 12 students may apply for SEAS directly with Monash by completing the *Monash University Special Entry and Access Scheme* form. Students must provide their VTAC ID with their evidence, and send certified copies of all relevant documents to support their claim of disadvantage along with the form - Monash University Direct Application Special Entry and Access Scheme

VCE 2018 Summer Schools

Access Education Summer School

The Access Education Summer School program is a unique opportunity for students studying Units 3 and 4 to experience university life while preparing for the demands of their final VCE year. The format of the program includes extensive and detailed 3 ¼ hour VCE preparation lectures, and subject specific study notes prepared by the lecturer. The presenters have been chosen for their extensive knowledge, communication abilities and passion for their subject. Subjects on offer are *Biology, Business Management, Chemistry, English, Further Maths, Health & Human Development, Legal Studies, Maths Methods, Physical Education, Physics, and Psychology*.

Date: Monday 22 – Thursday 25 January 2018

Venue: Monash University (Clayton Campus)

Visit [Access Summer School](#) to find out more or to download a brochure.

The School for Excellence Summer School

The School for Excellence (TSFX) Summer School offers comprehensive summer school program preparation. Lectures will thoroughly address Unit 1 or 3 materials in advance of school, and expose students to critical analytical/problem solving strategies and skills so as to maximise Unit 1 or 3 scores.

Students attending the programs receive detailed notes, fully worked examples and exercises to complete at home. The lectures are prepared and delivered by qualified, currently practising **VCE** teachers and markers from top ranking schools

who possess the knowledge and experience to demonstrate the means by which students can achieve higher scores. Subjects on offer include *Accounting, Biology, Business Management, CAS Technology Applications, Chemistry, Economics, English, Further Mathematics, Health & Human Development, Legal Studies, Literature, Mathematical Methods, Physical Education, Physics, Psychology, and Specialist Mathematics.*

Date: January 2018

Venue: University of Melbourne

Visit [TSFX Summer School](#) to find out about the program.

Useful Tips for Successful Interviews

Many candidates lose the job in the first minute of the interview by not thinking carefully about their initial impact. *John Lees* shares his expert interview tips:

1 Don't waste the opening moments Many candidates lose the job in the first minute of the interview by not thinking carefully about their initial impact. Interviewers make a quick initial decision about your personality from the moment you arrive, based on how you look and sound. Dress as if you already work there and you've just been promoted. Make those initial seconds as relaxed and upbeat as you can, even if you're just talking about your journey.

2 Don't over-deliver Most candidates say too much. Interviewers are not that interested, and will usually accept a short, positive answer and move on. Practise compressing your evidence into good short stories no more than three minutes long setting out what problem you were handling, what you did, how you did it, and what the result was.

3 Don't act like a stranger Leave your coat, umbrella and bag in reception. Just take a slim folder into the interview room containing the documents you need, and you will look like an employee rather than a visitor.

4 Don't try to wing difficult questions Don't duck predictable questions about your know-how and skill level – think carefully about good examples. Equally predictable questions cover things like strengths (talk about qualities that match the job) and weaknesses (talk about skills you are improving, and make it clear that you're a fast learner).

Sourced from John Lees, who has written a wide range of career books. His 2013 titles are *Just The Job!* and *Knockout CV*.

Ms Bronwyn Cullinan
Career Pathway Advisor

