SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

At the close of Nominations there were three nominees for the position of Parent Representative on the Pakenham Secondary College School Council. As the number of nominations was equal to the number of positions, an election will not be required. The Nominees and hence successful candidates are:

- Karyn Cassar
- Helen Page
- Vanessa Sach

YEAR 12 ASPIRATION DAY

On Tuesday, February 16 the school held a conference for all Year 12 students at the Cardinia Cultural Centre. Students were exposed to a range of information concerning how to be successful in Year 12 and what this means in terms of opportunity. One of the highlights of the conference was the ex-students who gave up their time to speak about their achievements.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

We owe it to our children to support them in making the most of their secondary schooling. Success at school breeds opportunity and we want to give every student the chance to progress to their preferred pathway upon completion of their time at Pakenham Secondary College. Regular attendance is the key to success in any subject. Our latest Attendance Policy states:

- Students who fall below 80% attendance in any class, without College approval, will record an ‘N’ for that subject in the end of semester report. The report comment will include – “Based on an attendance rate of less than 80%..(student name) has not been able to successfully meet the requirements of this subject”.
- Students who have 80% to 90% attendance will be required to sit additional work by the class teacher to gain an ‘S’ for the subject.

Make sure your child is maximising their opportunities by attending school every day. If your child needs to be absent from school, parents are asked to contact the absence hot line on 5945 1444 before 9am.

GOOD STUDY HABITS

We are very appreciative of the support we have from our parents and suggest that there are some fundamental things that can be done at home to support each child’s learning:

- Make sure there is a space that is available within the house where homework can be completed (This is not in front of the television).
- Commit to ensuring that your child goes to school every day.
- Support your child in being organised. Make sure they have the correct equipment and their workbooks are properly set out. One workbook, or one section of a folder, for each subject is a good idea.
Principal’s Report continued…

- Ask to see your child’s workbooks on a weekly basis.
- Teach your child effective time management by ensuring that there is regular time set aside, after school, whereby students can do homework. Teenagers use a lot of their after school time socialising with friends, using social media or playing games on computers. Time needs to be set aside where this is not allowed and study is the sole focus.
- Check the student planner for when class work is due and make sure your child has submitted set work.
- Set up a regular homework routine whereby your child could:
  - Complete assignments or work that was not completed in class that day.
  - Review the notes taken during any one lesson. A big problem for students is they take notes during class time and then forget about them, until they are required to sit a test.
  - Read a book. Reading plays a very important role in student learning and, if you join the local library, costs nothing. It promotes language development and comprehension skills. So whenever your child says I have no homework, ask them to read.

The success of each child is important to us and we need to promote good habits within our students to ensure that their education has importance in their life. We can make this happen through parents and teachers working together. If parents have any concerns regarding their child’s progress, they should contact either their child’s classroom teacher or Team Leader. Through working together we can achieve great outcomes.

Ray Squires
Principal

Literacy

In 2016 the College continues to roll out its extensive literacy program, ‘Literacy for Learning’. This comprehensive program aims to improve literacy outcomes for students across all learning areas. Ninety percent of staff have been trained in the six module course and the remainder of staff will be trained over the course of first semester. ‘Literacy for Learning’ focuses on teaching students to write in a more formal, academic manner; the type of writing that is expected in the school setting. Students are learning about the Register Continuum which makes clear the need to write in a more technical and abstract fashion. With strategies including noun groups and nominalisations students are learning real techniques to improve their writing.

As well as this, teachers are implementing new strategies to improve the students’ reading comprehension. By breaking work down to the language level and understanding how this language functions, students are better able to make sense of texts.

Already from last year’s NAPLAN and VCE results we believe that we are starting to see real improvement in our students’ work. I would encourage parents to talk to their children about these strategies and see if they feel they are making a difference.

Kate Logan
Literacy Co-ordinator

After School Literacy Support Club

An After School Literacy Support Club is available each Thursday afternoon between 3.30pm – 4.00pm in B12 with Mrs Kielnhofer. The focus of this club is to provide a small group of students with support in literacy skill building activities including spelling, grammar, academic writing and reading. Students are encouraged to contact their English teacher or Mrs Kielnhofer to obtain a permission form.
Messages from the Office

Diary Dates

March
- Wednesday 23rd Parent/Teacher Interviews 4pm – 8pm
- Wednesday 23rd Year 7 Immunisations

Excursions/Incursions

March
- Tuesday 8th Year 10.7 University Pathways Incursion
- Wed 9th – Fri 11th Year 7 Camp
- Thursday 10th Year 9.1 University Pathways Incursion
- Tuesday 15th Intermediate VCAL to Yarraville
- Tuesday 15th Years 10, 11 & 12 Studio Arts to Top Arts Exhibition, Melbourne
- Tuesday 15th Senior VCAL Asylum Seeker Incursion
- Thursday 17th Year 11 Geography to Cockatoo Township
- Thursday 17th Year 8 Cricket
- Friday 18th Regional Chess Tournament
- Tuesday 22nd Year 7 Sport
- Thursday 24th College House Athletic Carnival - All students

Uniform Shop Hours

The uniform shop is open on Tuesdays between 1pm and 4.30pm and Saturdays between 9am and 12pm during school terms only. The shop is located behind the gym (via Cunningham Drive) and the Manager can be contacted on 5940 2912.

Personal items

If students bring bikes, scooters or any personal items, including mobile phones and iPods to school, it is at the owner’s risk. The College accepts no responsibility for any lost or stolen items. The College will lock the bike shed each day, but cannot guarantee complete security; we recommend students bring their own locks to secure bikes and scooters.

We have noticed an increase in the number of students who ride their bike to and from school not wearing a bike helmet. If you are riding a bike you are required by law to wear an approved bike helmet.

A reminder to all that the speed limit inside the school grounds is 10kph so please slow down and keep everyone safe.
School Sport

On Monday the 22\textsuperscript{nd} of February we attended our annual House Swimming Carnival at Pakenham Outdoor Pool. The weather held out for the day - overcast and 25 degrees, perfect for a swim!

Points between the Houses were neck and neck for the majority of the day, however the winning team (Henty) became clear with their fantastic team spirit and participation levels toward the end. The results of the carnival and subsequent age group champions are listed below:

**First:** Henty - 372 Points  
**Second:** Lecky - 310 Points  
**Third:** Patterson - 284 Points  
**Fourth:** Jamieson - 270 Points

**Age Group Champions:**
- 12-13 years Male – Nathaniel De Lorenzo
- 12-13 years Female – Jordan Sochackyj
- 14 years Male – Zak Mort
- 14 years Female – Rose Sollis
- 15 years Male – Thawatchai Muangsri
- 15 years Female – Jamie Bevan
- 16 years Male – Josh Yeo
- 16 years Female – Maddison DeLorenzo
- 17 years Male – Jason Hawe
- 17 years Female – Abigail Nimmo
- 18-20 years Male – Kyal Mason
- 18-20 years Female – Tiarna Maher

**Senior Volleyball:**
On Monday the 29\textsuperscript{th} of February the girls senior volleyball team went to Dandenong Volleyball Stadium to play against the other schools in the division. They played four fantastic games throughout the day, but unfortunately did not make it through to the next round. Well done on a good effort girls.

**Coming Up:**
- Wednesday March 9\textsuperscript{th} – Division Swimming Carnival at Doveton Pool in the Park.
- Thursday March 17\textsuperscript{th} – Year 8 Cricket.
- Tuesday March 22\textsuperscript{nd} - Year 7 Cricket and Volleyball.
- Thursday March 24\textsuperscript{th} – House Athletics Carnival at Toomuc Reserve.

**Athletics Carnival:**
The carnival is a compulsory school event and allows students to compete in a host of different athletic sports such as shot put, javelin, discus, high jump, long jump, triple jump and varied running distances. Students are encouraged to dress up in their House colours and support their fellow competitors! Sign-ups will be held at school through Health and P.E classes for Years 7-10, or through signup sheets in the senior school area for Years 11 and 12. Should a student be absent during sign ups, they will need to contact their Health/P.E teacher.

**Aerobics:**
With the departure of Miss Keegan from Pakenham Secondary College it has been a slow start to Aerobics in 2016. Strength and fitness training are high on the agenda, as well as finding my feet with a brand new sport. The senior girls are doing a fantastic job helping to coach the junior Aerobics team members, whilst we get ourselves in shape for the year. We begin our routine training this week, in preparation for competing in our first ‘Aero Challenge’ on June the 4\textsuperscript{th}.

A reminder that training remains every Tuesday and Thursday in the Gym from 3:30-4:30pm.

Looking forward to an excellent year of competition and good luck girls!

Caera Drury,  
Aerobics Coach & Sports Coordinator.
Achieving Success in English

Another challenging year has begun and we welcome back all students and thank parents at the same time for their role in enabling students to come back fully prepared to learn. To achieve success in English and Literacy, students will be expected to be diligent in completing class work as well as homework.

Some important things to focus on at the beginning of the year:

1. Ensure that students have purchased the required texts for this year. Students face enormous difficulties, if they do not have the required novels studied in class.
2. Please ensure that your child brings laptops to classes every day, if they had been required to purchase one.
3. Year 7 and 9 students will have the NAPLAN tests from May 10th to 12th. Students will have practice tests throughout the term, so that they are fully prepared to achieve their best.
4. VCE students are encouraged to stay focused on tasks, as the year goes by very quickly. A thorough homework and revision plan must be formulated, so that constant learning takes place throughout the year.
5. The school has an after school homework program weekly in the Library and students are encouraged to stay behind to complete work. Teachers will be there to assist if the need arises. VCE students are welcome to stay behind after school and catch up on work as well.
6. A separate Literacy and EAL support after school has been organized by Mr De Lima. This normally takes place on a Wednesday or Thursday.
7. Year 11 Literature students went on an excursion to Carlton on 24th February, for the viewing of 'The Dressmaker', a film based on Rosalie Ham’s novel. It was an exhilarating experience for all involved.

2016 is a new year with new aspirations and goals; therefore the whole school community is encouraged to work together to achieve success for our students.

Sushila Kumar
KLA English

The Dressmaker Review

After reading The Dressmaker by Rosalie Ham in the Year 11 literature class, we were keen to watch the movie, with some of the Year 10 Writers’ Club students. The Nova cinema welcomed us with some buttery popcorn and warm seats. The bittersweet, comedy-drama is set in early 1950s Australia. Tilly Dunnage, a beautiful and talented misfit, after many years working as a dressmaker in exclusive Parisian fashion houses, returns home to the tiny middle-of-nowhere town of Dungatar to right the wrongs of the past. Not only does she reconcile with her ailing, strange mother Molly and unexpectedly falls in love with the handsome, pure-hearted Teddy, but armed with her sewing machine and incredible sense of style, she transforms the women of the town and in so doing, gets sweet revenge on those who did her wrong.

Everyone had different thoughts about the film, but it was a movie you could only either love or hate. Here are some comments by students who attended the movie:

“I very much enjoyed the day out and I enjoyed the story line of the Dressmaker. I just felt the storyline was a bit sloppy and all over the place and a lot of unnecessary deaths.” – Georgia Tippelt

“The ‘Dressmaker’ was a movie that you want to keep on watching until you find out every detail; the casting was really good” – Chloe Cook

“I really enjoyed the culture and the socialising of the day out, the movie was one of those movies that is really complicated and you never know what to feel” – Chelsea Jones

“The movie was really good, I enjoyed it a lot, but towards the end there was an exaggerated number of deaths, which brought the movie downhill.” – Taylah Andrew

By Chloe Cook, Year 10
Developing a Culture of Success

Last year’s success by the chess team was mainly brought about through the dedication of the students and Mr De Lima. The team won a Regional tournament 4 times, finished number 6 in the state and 7 in the country. Members from last year’s team who serve as mentor coaches to new players are: Victoria Hendrick, Min Hong Yang, Cameron Higgins, Hayden King, Fabian Bonaudi, Tibesso Abduro-Witago, Armann Gil, Rose Solis, Crystal Whaley, Harnoor Gil, Fanxi Kong and Ryan Kloppenburg.

Most of the members from last year’s team are still involved and we have a promising group of Year 7 members that will be the future of the team. The new members are: Teegan Comiac, Brett Handley, Emily Seears, Lily Vlasveld, Peter Webb and Aaron Kossak. They will be representing the school in the South Eastern Regional tournament on the 18th of March 2016 at Pakenham Secondary College.

Our students have proven they have the talent necessary to excel in their chosen activity. We have a lot of hard working students who play basketball, netball, golf, football and music to name a few. If they would focus their energy in something they are really passionate about, they can achieve what the chess team has done last year.

Everyone is invited to join the team for a friendly game, or if you want to compete with other schools.

Christian Ampongan

Malonga Magazine Needs You!

The College Magazine Committee is seeking enthusiastic and reliable students to contribute to the preparation of Malonga for 2016. Creative young people who would like to write, draw, design and take photographs are welcome to join the team.

See Ms Hurrell or Mr White in B6 at lunchtime Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
The Senior School team of Dean Blight, Michael Haber and Jo-Anne Duggan along with Assistant Principal Emanuel Merambeliotis, welcomed the 2016 Year 11 and 12 cohort on the 29th January. We were very impressed by their school uniform and the expectation to be in full school uniform, including piercings and hair colour, will be a strong focus throughout the year. We appreciate that on occasions there may be an issue with uniform and sending a note and obtaining a uniform pass from a Senior School Leader is appropriate at these times. If for some reason there is a concern about acquiring the correct uniform we have a number of ways to support students and parents in sorting these issues out, so please contact us at the College on 5945 1433.

The Year Twelve jackets have arrived and the students look brilliant in them. For the first time in a number of years the take up rate for the jackets is around 95%, which is fantastic. It is wonderful to see the students wearing them with pride. One small quirk this year is that the jackets when unbuttoned have press studs that rattle. So if you come to the senior school it can at times sound like we are all playing jingle bells, as we walk along.

On January 16th the entire Year 12 cohort attended Aspiration Day at the Cultural Centre. The day focuses on providing students with the knowledge to successfully navigate Year 12. Speakers presented workshops on various pathway options open to students post Year 12, ways of dealing with stress and pressure, time management skills and some team building activities. Feedback from the students was sought and the majority seemed to have benefited from the day. As a new team within the College we are seeing ways to improve our programs and we are appreciative of students who have put forward ideas for the day in 2017. A special thanks to the Senior VCAL class for their valuable input.

Swimming Sports were held on the 22nd of January and it was somewhat disappointing to see the poor attendance by the Senior School on this day. Whole school events are for everyone and are days that most students remember in the years to come. With the Athletics Carnival weeks away I urge students and parents to support this event and that the Senior School set the tone and culture for the other year levels at the College.

The College as a whole has an improvement agenda and none more so than at the Senior School. Whether your child has chosen a VCAL or a VCE pathway the expectations are the same. Students need to have an attendance above 90%. All absences in Senior School need to be covered with a medical certificate. Students need to be completing set tasks by the due date and ensuring that they are prepared for tasks such as SAC’s that are completed in class. Students and parents need to be mindful that simply submitting work will not result in an automatic pass and that there will be times when some tasks may need to be resubmitted in order to achieve a satisfactory result. We ask that students look at the feedback that has been provided by their teachers and make the required adjustments in order to achieve success. Parents can support their children by ensuring that they have the required books pens etc., that they have an area where they can work and the time in which to do the required tasks. There needs to be a balance between school, work and other recreational activities, but students often need guidance in making this happen.

If your child is not coping, the College’s study room is open each morning from 7:45 and remains open until 5:00 each night for student use. Breakfast is available each morning. Staff are available to assist and many staff have extra study sessions after school that students can attend.

If you identify that your child is not coping or you have concerns please contact the College and speak to the Senior Team. Dean Blight is primarily in charge of Year 11, Michael Haber Year 12, while Jo-Anne Duggan and Emanuel Merambeliotis have responsibility for the Senior School cohort as a whole. Our focus is on your child’s learning, as a means to the pathway of their choice.

Jo-Anne Duggan
Senior School Leader
Homework Club

Homework club is back in the swing of things for 2016. Help is available to every student in the College, from straight after school until 4:30pm, every Thursday in the Library. Assisting students will be teachers who teach a range of subjects, including Maths, English, Humanities and Science. So come along and get help if you need, work through your homework with a friend or it can just be a quiet space for you to work!

Mrs. Peterson

Breakfast Club

All students are welcome to come to Breakfast Club. Toast and milk/milo will be provided Monday to Friday between 8:15am and 8:45am, near the canteen.

The bread is kindly donated by Bakers Delight each week.

We are now offering cereal: Corn Flakes, Rice Bubbles and Sultana Bran!

“The Writers’ Club”

The Writers’ Club provides an opportunity for keen writers and authors to sharpen their writing skills, share ideas and give and receive feedback about their writing. One of the aims of the club is to encourage students to submit entries to various local, state and national writing competitions across a range of genres such as, poetry, essays and short stories, as well as the annual school magazine Malonga.

We meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at lunchtime in B6 and students from every year level are most welcome.
Student Leadership Council

The Student Leadership Council held its inaugural meeting during Head Start last December. We discussed the need for a framework within which we will operate and started working on ideas for a Pakenham Secondary College SLC Constitution. So far we have discussed and agreed to the following aims and objectives:

1. To encourage student participation in all areas of school life
2. To facilitate the process of the Pakenham Secondary College SLC having input into all matters affecting the wider school community
3. To widen the range of activities (across curriculum, extracurricular and health and wellbeing) for all students
4. Build up the College spirit and generate feelings of connectedness, loyalty, pride, enthusiasm, emotional and physical safety and security throughout the College.
5. To promote and strengthen the Pakenham Secondary College’s SOAR values.
6. To represent the students of Pakenham Secondary College by participating in student leadership events in the wider community (when the opportunity arises).

The Year 12 students came up with the great idea of building a vegetable garden with younger students to encourage participation and build on the College spirit. This fantastic idea has been passed on to Intermediate VCAL students, who are currently in negotiation with Year 7 management to involve Year 7 students in this worthwhile project. They are proposing that we make two raised garden beds using old apple crates. Watch this space to see how this wonderful project unfolds!

We are working on building up and sustaining the number of students from all year levels. Congratulations to the following new SLC members.

Year 7 – Aleisha-Ravyn Pattison, Amelia-Rachel Pattison and Natasha Gallagher
Year 8 – Jade Webb and Jenna Trewarn
Year 9 – Elayne Schneider, Jenna Douglas, Monique McKay and Karlee Weir
Year 10 – Charlee Brent
Year 11 – Kirsten Trewarn, Kaylee Repka, Kaitlyn Peters, Brittney Bruce, Amba Kilgower, Tiahna Dearnley

We will be calling out for more members and for two ‘Year 9 Ambassadors’ in the near future.

We will be following previous SLC’s lead and assist in the running of the yearly BBQ at our upcoming Athletics Carnival. As per the last few years, the money raised will be donated to the Royal Children’s Hospital.

If you know any students who would like to join the SLC and share their ideas and skills, please ask them to watch out for SLC meeting dates and times or they can talk to our hard-working Co-Presidents, Tyler Jamieson and Jeavon Standfield in Year 12 – or Ms Henderson in the Upstairs Senior Building office.

Laura Henderson
**Student Achievement**

The College would like to acknowledge and celebrate the success of our students in a range of endeavours and share student events and programs with the wider College community in 2016.

**AWARDS**

Throughout the year the College presents students with awards for participating positively in class and applying themselves to their learning. The criteria for each of these awards is listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-School Awards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-School Awards fall into four categories as outlined below. Recipients of these awards are recognised with certificates which are presented at Sub-School assemblies by the Sub-School Coordinators and Team Leaders.</td>
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</table>

**1. Academic Awards**

Recipients for these awards are selected by individual subject teachers to acknowledge the success of students, who consistently produce work of a very high standard.

**2. Attitude and Effort Awards**

Recipients for these awards are selected by individual subject teachers to acknowledge the success of students, who consistently display attitude and effort of a very high standard.

**3. SOAR Awards**

Students eligible for these awards are nominated by individual subject teachers based on their consistent display of the College SOAR values — Social and Personal Responsibility, Opportunities for All, Achieving Personal Best and Respect and Relationships. Team Leaders and Coordinators then select recipients from these nominations, based on the number of nominations individual students receive.

**4. Attendance Awards**

These awards are presented to students who have achieved an attendance rate of 95% or greater, over the term in Years 7 to 10 and over the semester in Years 11 and 12.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Technology and Arts Awards</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Technology and Art Key Learning Areas hold an exhibition in both Semester 1 and 2 to showcase students’ work of outstanding quality. From these exhibitions staff select recipients for awards in the following categories: Textiles – Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 Woodwork – Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 Art – Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 These awards are presented at a whole school assembly.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year 10 Certificate</th>
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| A Year 10 Certificate is awarded at the end of the year for students who have successfully completed all semester units to a satisfactory standard. Additionally, students must meet the following criteria:-

- The minimum attendance criteria.
- Participation in the Work Experience Program
- Participation in the Mock Interview Program
- Participation in at least one Extra Curricula activity such as Interschool Sport, House Athletics or Swimming Carnival, Open Nights, School Magazine or clubs. |

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<th>House Swimming and Athletics Carnivals</th>
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<td>A perpetual shield is awarded to the House Team that accrues the most points at each of the carnivals. A female and a male student, from each age group, who accrues the most points for the events they compete in, receive a medal to acknowledge their fine efforts. The shields and medals are presented at a whole school assembly during Term Two. The best individual performances in each age group may represent the school in regional competitions held later in the year.</td>
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### End of Year Awards
The College’s Annual Award night is held in the last week of the year at the Cardinia Cultural Centre. The following awards are presented to students based on their end of year reports and recommendations from their teachers.

#### Years 7 to 10
**Six Academic Awards:**
- PSC Council Award ($100)
- Campion Book Award ($50)
- Four book prizes

**Four SOAR Awards:**
- PSC Council Award ($100)
- Three book prizes

**Attendance Awards:**
- Three book prizes

#### Year 11
**Seven Academic Awards:**
- PSC Council Award ($100)
- Two Campion Book Award ($50 each)
- Four book prizes

**Four SOAR Awards:**
- PSC Council Award ($100)
- Three book prizes

**Attendance Awards:**
- Three book prizes

#### Year 12
**Four SOAR Awards:**
- PSC Council Award ($100)
- Three book prizes

**Academic Award:**
- Dux of the School ($100)

### Additional Awards
#### Year 8:
- Principals’ Award – awarded to a student in Year 8 ($200), nominated by teachers for consistently demonstrating our SOAR values, in particular, Striving for Personal Best.

#### Year 9:
- Country Women’s Association Scholarships - awarded to a girl and a boy in Year 9 and continues to the end of Year 12 ($300 each student per year). The criteria includes academic excellence and consistent demonstration of SOAR values.

#### Year 10 and 12:
- Long Tan Awards – awarded to a student in Year 10 ($250) and Year 12 ($500) who demonstrate leadership and team work within our school and the wider community.
- Federation University Award ($100) – awarded to a student who shows an interest in Business Studies

#### Year 11:
- Rotary Club Cameron Trust Award ($650) – awarded to an all-rounder (academic excellence, SOAR values and leadership skills).
- Duffy Simon Award ($200) – awarded to an outstanding Legal Studies student.
- Federation University Award ($500) - awarded to a Year 11 student who has demonstrated a strong commitment to their studies and their community.

#### Year 12:
- Art Award – awarded by the Art Faculty.
- Caltex All Rounder - awarded to a student nominated by the Senior School Team.
- Candice Johnston Award – awarded to a female student who is aiming to be successful in a traditional male industry.

### Valedictory Dinner and Year Twelve Awards
At the end of each year, the Year 12 students and their families are invited to attend the Valedictory Dinner to celebrate the culmination of 6 years of secondary education. On this night, we present awards to the Year 12 students who achieve the best academic results in each subject.

### Semester Reports
In 2015, we introduced further acknowledgement of student awards and student participation in extra-curricular activities with the inclusion of a record of these in student semester reports.
## COMMUNITY BASED ACHIEVEMENTS

### Community Based Achievements

**Pakenham Secondary College**

### Notification of student success

We would like to hear about your child’s achievements outside school and share their success with the wider school community.

If you would like your child’s achievement to be recognised in the next newsletter, please complete the slip below and return to the General Office, as soon as possible. (The Coordinators will attempt to include all nominations).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s Name:</th>
<th>Homegroup:</th>
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**Details of Achievement:**

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Parent signature:  

Contact No.

Please return this slip to the College with evidence of the achievement.