In Term 2 students in Years 7 and 9 participated in NAPLAN testing. Parents of students in Years 7 and 9 have been sent a copy of their child’s NAPLAN results and while it is understood that the results represent one point in time in a child’s schooling, it does provide important feedback for the College, parents and students. As a Principal, I am particularly interested in the level of growth in student learning that has occurred, as students have moved from Year 7 to Year 9. In 2016, this growth data has been outstanding with students easily surpassing the average growth of that achieved across the state in four of the five key areas. This is a significant achievement by our students and vindicates the improvement strategies currently being employed by the College.

Student Attendance

This year sees the College continue to focus on two important messages. The first of these is based around the importance of attendance; the second is that effort matters. It is pleasing to see that the 2016 attendance levels have improved on 2015 levels.

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 key to success in any subject. Our 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.

We all want our students to get a great education and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future. As we approach the last quarter of the school year, it is important that parents continue to ensure that their child attends every day. The rest of this year should be seen as students preparing for the 2017 school year.

The message around effort is just as important. We need our students to put the effort into their schooling that will allow them to achieve success in their learning. This comes in the form of being prepared for every class, doing some level of homework every night (even if it is just reading a book), ensuring all set work is complete and making sure that the focus is on learning in every classroom.
Principal’s Report continued…

Interim Reports / Parent Teacher Interviews
Interim reports will be available to parents on Thursday, September 8th. They can be accessed through the Compass Parent Portal. Parent-Teacher interviews are scheduled for Thursday, September 15th and interviews with teachers will also be booked through Compass.

Pupil free day – Term 4
Parents should note that the next School Council sanctioned Pupil Free Day is scheduled for Friday, November 25th.

It should be noted that the Monday before Melbourne Cup Day is a normal school day with all students expected to attend.

Child Safe Policy
On 26 November 2015, the Victorian Parliament passed the Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Bill 2015 to introduce Child Safe Standards into law. The Standards aim to promote cultural change in the way organisations manage the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Pakenham Secondary College strives to implement the Child Safe Standards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students at the College and promote an organisational culture that manages the risk of child abuse and neglect. The school has developed policies and procedures specifically aimed at keeping children safe. A full copy of the College’s “Child Safe Policy” can be found on the College’s Web Page under “Student Resources”

Ray Squires
Principal

Senior School

Year 11
This term Year 11 students have continued working towards their successful completion of Unit 2 and VCAL credits. Students have selected their 2017 programs and a completed and signed ‘Subject Selection’ form should have been returned to the College.

We have recently had a Finnish exchange student commence at our College and she will be with us for 10 months. Welcome Elli, we are sure you will enjoy your time at Pakenham Secondary College.

There have been a variety of excursions this term including the Literature students visiting the theatre to watch ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’, Chemistry students visiting the Melbourne Aquarium and VCAL students participating in ‘Barefoot Bowls’ at the local bowls club.

As the end of Term 3 fast approaches, a reminder that all students should be completing a minimum of 1-2 hours of homework per subject per week. This will aid students in consolidating the knowledge and understanding required to demonstrate outcomes and for VCE students to achieve their personal best come ‘exam week’.

Dean Blight
Year 11 Team Leader

Year 12
This term has been an extremely busy one for Year 12 students. VCE students are just 3 weeks away from finishing Unit 4 and have been busily working their way through School Assessed Coursework (SACs) in each of their subjects. Now is the time where students should expect to see a significant jump in the homework hours they are doing, as they prepare final revision notes and summaries from throughout Unit 3 and Unit 4 in preparation for the exams in
October/November. On students’ return from holidays, all teachers will begin an intensive exam practice and revision program to enable students to achieve their PERSONAL BEST during exams and hopefully reach our target of an average Study Score of 27 for each subject.

Our Year 12 VCAL students are also very busy, as they head towards a hopeful completion by the end of this term. Students have been busily preparing folios for Literacy, finalising the planning and reflection process for PDS and completing all Numeracy tasks, as well as their WRS log books. All students are finalising work requirements for PDS, Literacy, Numeracy and WRS and must ensure these requirements are met to complete the course by term’s end. A reminder to VCAL students that those not finished by September 16th, will be returning in Term 4 on a fulltime basis until completion is achieved.

SAVE THE DATE: Some important dates to remember:

★ Year 12 final assembly and celebration day – Monday, October 24th
★ Year 12 Valedictory Dinner – Friday, November 18th

We would love to see as many families as possible attending the Valedictory Dinner this year to help us celebrate and acknowledge all the hard work our year 12’s have put in this year.

Michael Haber
Year 12 Team Leader

Messages from the Office

Diary Dates

September

- Wednesday 7th Immunisations Year 7
- Thursday 15th Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Friday 16th Last day of Term 3 2.30pm finish

October

- Monday 3rd First day of Term 4

Excursions

September

- Monday 5th Division Athletics Casey Fields
- Tuesday 6th Chess Tournament - Drouin S.C Chess Team
- Tuesday 6th Immigration Museum VCAL students
- Tuesday 6th Café Vanille Year 8 French
- Thursday 8th The Backlot Studios Year 11 Psychology
- Film - The Stanford Prison Experiment
- Monday 12th Immigration Museum EAL students
- Monday 12th MCG Tour 7.3
- Wednesday 14th Melbourne Museum Year 12 Psychology
If you have not received your Compass username and password, please contact the office and we can provide these.

Booking Your Parent-Teacher Interview
On the Compass home screen, beside the student you wish to make bookings for, click ‘Book Parent Teacher Interviews’.

A list of parent-teacher interview dates will be displayed along with their booking status. Click on the relevant date.

Your booking sheet will be displayed and will show all available booking times. Click on a time in the grid to display teachers available for booking at the selected time.

Note: You can view a teacher’s availability by clicking on the teacher’s name at the bottom of the page.
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.

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.

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.
Careers and Pathways

Year 12 VTAC Applications

Year 12 VTAC Interviews
We are currently interviewing all Year 12 students and encouraging them to submit a VTAC application. Students are able to apply for eight different tertiary courses, either at university or TAFE. Even if a student is hoping to gain employment next year, we would like them to submit an application. On many occasions in the past, students seek employment, but may not necessarily locate a job quickly. They appear far more motivated to an employer if they are doing something productive in the interim. These applications cost $32 to submit. If you need any further information, don’t hesitate to contact us.

Year 12 Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) Applications
As part of their VTAC application, students can apply for SEAS. There are several categories, but two that may require a parent’s help include: Disadvantaged Financial Background (DFB) and Disability or Medical Background. If you receive any entitlements from Centrelink (including Family Tax Benefits A or B) – your child may be eligible for DFB and you can work through this with your child on the VTAC application. This will require supporting documentation that needs to be uploaded and sent with the application.

If a student has a disability or medical issue, they may also apply for this category. They will once again need supporting documentation and this usually comes from a medical practitioner. Once they have applied for this, they will receive a link to send to their doctor. It may be necessary to make an appointment with the doctor, so that they can discuss this with them. The majority of doctors know about this, so hopefully they will be able to support the claim.

Résumés
Many students visit our office to ask about help with a résumé. We would encourage them to visit our careers website: www.pakenhamsccareers.com, sign into the Student Secure Area and work through the Resume tab. They do not have to fill in every section and only the information filled in will be printed out. Once they have entered information, they have a choice of six different templates. The information will be saved and they can update whenever they need to. This website contains a wealth of information, so we encourage both parents and students to familiarise themselves with it.

Where are they now?

Gabriel Endozo
Gabriel completed his Senior VCAL last year. Throughout his course, Gab completed a work placement at Peninsula Food Alliance and attained his Certificate III in Warehousing. For the past several years, he has been interested in a career with the Australian Defence Force and has been pursuing this.

Gab went to his “You” session a number of weeks ago and from there attended his psychological and medical testing. He has now been accepted into the Army and has recently commenced his career.

Gab’s interest in the Defence Force sparked during Year 10, when the Defence Force visited the school to give a presentation. He has since investigated the many career options within the Defence Force and realised that this is the perfect job for him.
We wish him every success and can’t wait to get him back to speak to other students about his experience. Good luck Gab.

**Tayla Robinson**

Tayla was accepted into the Diploma of Education at Victoria University. This course is an alternative pathway into teaching and gives students a solid grounding towards their degree course the following year, where they go straight into second year. The great thing about this course is that, if a student wishes to exit after first year, they are qualified to work as a Teacher’s Aide. Tayla will also have the opportunity to complete a five-day placement in a school during Semester One.

Tayla is thoroughly enjoying her course and has met a lot of great people. The only downside is travelling to Footscray in the early mornings however, she is getting used to it! She definitely sees herself as being a teacher in the future and believes this course will provide her with a solid foundation. Although Tayla wants to become a Primary School Teacher, she intends completing a P-12 Education degree to keep her employment options open.

Tayla’s advice for current students: Try your best, but even if things don’t plan out the way you want, there are other ways of getting to where you want to be. We wish Tayla every success with her course and may even see her completing teaching rounds at PSC in the future!

Lesley McKay-Lovejoy  
**Careers and Pathways Co-ordinator**

---

**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.
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).

Child’s Name: ........................................................................... Homegroup: ..................

Details of Achievement: ..........................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................................

Parent signature: ................................................................. Contact No............................................

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