

Prayer

Loving God, we ask that you watch over and bless our Venialle pilgrims as our community continues to strengthen the relationship with the St Maria Mazzarello community. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen



From the Principal

Reflecting on our Learning

As Term 3 draws to a close, we can each reflect on the depth and quality of our teaching and learning thus far. In preparing for the final quarter of the academic year, it is natural to assume a mindset of 'bringing to fulfillment' the goals and efforts of the terms which preceded it. As students, as staff members, I encourage all within our community to reflect on their own learning growth to date and identify their learning intentions for Term 4, in order to ensure a successful end to the academic year. **We might do this by:**

- reflecting on the feedback offered to us (Parent Teacher Student Interviews, individual teacher feedback, peer feedback etc)
 - what next?
- reflecting on our own goals and aspirations and reconnecting with our dream
- reflecting on our mistakes, disappointments and even failures
 - what next?
- reflecting on the Learner Attributes – which are my strengths, which should I develop further for learning success?
- reflecting – where do I need to stretch myself with my learning?
- reflecting on really practical strategies to set yourself up for success in Term 4 – for example, asking questions, avoiding distractions, staying focussed and resilient, taking those opportunities to try something new, responding to learning opportunities like helping friends or sharing my learning with others.

Over the course of the last month in particular I have been pleased to see our senior students working concertedly to 'come home strong' in completing their studies and beginning preparations for their exams. We wish them every blessing as they prepare for trial exams over the term break.

A reminder to all students that Helene Library will be open over each day of the holidays for study or reading for pleasure. I offer below a recent article read about the importance of literacy and best approaches for the enhancement of literacy.

The Most Effective Literacy Teaching

Results of a synthesis of research show the most effective approaches.

- Solid amounts of balanced explicit instruction: what, why and how of learning material
- Lots of reading and writing.

- Science and Humanities integrating reading and writing.
- Meaning is central and teaching emphasises higher-order thinking.
- Skills are explicitly taught; children are coached to use them while reading and writing.
- Teachers use a variety of formats and a wide variety of materials to provide instruction;
- Classrooms are well managed and have high expectations.

"Learning from the Past: What ESSA Has the Chance to Get Right" by Danielle Dennis in The Reading Teacher, January/February 2017

Back to Ave Day

How wonderful it was to welcome past students to our Back to Ave Day on Sunday, 10 September 2017. My thanks to Emily Daye from the Class of 2012 who spoke beautifully of both her journey and career since leaving school as well as her affection for a College community who had gifted her with friends, fond memories and great learning. Thanks to all those in attendance. We look forward to growing our contact base with all past students so that they can stay connected and receive publications about the Women of Ave network. If you, or someone you know is a past student of Ave Maria College, please [register](#) or email your details to [Sarah De Nicolo](#).



Elizabeth Hanney
Principal





Deputy Principal Leadership & Learning

Our thinking as leaders of learning has always been to ensure we are responding to the learning needs of our students.

The many ways in which we do this includes listening to student feedback, engaging in professional learning about what research is telling us and tapping into the expertise and many years of experience amongst our staff. One such response has been a reform of assessment and reporting practices at Ave Maria College. The Assessment Reform Project began with an exploration of a few key questions. The first question explored goes right back to basics. "What is the purpose of assessment?" The project team explored this fundamental question in order to guide what we assess and the means by which we do it. So based on our research and feedback we established a position on this question.

The purpose of assessment is to guide future learning and teaching, by ascertaining the growth from previous to current achievement levels.

In other words, to establish the progress a student has made and to indicate where the student needs to go next in their learning. So assessment put simply is feedback and that feedback must reflect both aspects of this purpose. In the time since, we have ratified an Assessment and Reporting policy which is underpinned by this definition and we have gone on to establish Assessment and Reporting Protocols that spell out what these practices will look like. The full details of these protocols are too long for this column however this document will be published in due course.

I wish to highlight a change for our parents in 2018. Our protocols state that parents will:

- have access to all written feedback and assessment of achievement levels provided to students in each unit of study
- have the opportunity to respond to the feedback provided.

It needs to be said here that this is currently the case as students should always be sharing assessment feedback with their parents. However, in order to make such assessments readily available to parents we will be moving to a continuous reporting environment where student assessment and feedback is made available online to both student and parents. Jessica Hall, our Teaching and Learning Leader will be communicating more about our continuous reporting environment for 2018 in the coming weeks. In the meantime, our work to ensure students engage in purposeful assessment and receive meaningful feedback continues.

Phillip Tascone

Deputy Principal Leadership and Learning

Heads of School

Student Leadership 2018

Last week, the candidates for the 2018 Senior Student Leadership positions delivered inspiring speeches to the student body. Following the speech assembly, staff and students in Years 7-11 were invited to vote, via a preferential system, for the 2018 College Co-Captains, Faith and Social Justice Captains, Academic Captain and their House Captains.

For the applicants who successfully made it to the speeches stage it is a daunting process to stand in front of more than 850 staff and students, however, each candidate gave a clear and articulate vision of why they should be elected. We wish all candidates the best of luck. Voting closes on Wednesday, 20 September 2017, with the candidates being advised of the results this Friday, 22 September 2017.

VCE Units 3 & 4 Trial Examinations

Students currently undertaking a VCE Unit 3 & 4 will be required to undertake the trial examinations set by the College. These trial examinations will commence in the second week of the school holidays, that being Tuesday, 3 October 2017 and will conclude on Monday, 9 October 2017. Year 11 students with scheduled examinations on Monday, 9 October 2017 will not be required to attend any classes that day. Year 12 students are also reminded that there will be no scheduled classes on Monday, 9 October 2017.

Term 4 Uniform

As Term 3 draws to a close, it is time to put the Winter uniform away for the next 6 months. Term 4 sees the return of the Summer uniform, and hopefully, some warmer weather. In order to accommodate for the unpredictable Melbourne Weather, a uniform changeover period of 2 weeks will apply. All students must be in the **College Summer uniform by Monday, 23 October 2017.**

We remind students and parents that dresses should be knee length. It is likely that many students have grown since Term 1, and so their summer dress may need to have the hem lowered. A further reminder that in Term 4 the blazer is not required to be worn to and from school and the jumper cannot be worn as the outmost garment outside of school grounds.

Jo Hammer
Matthew Smith

Head of School Years 7-9
Head of School Years 10-12

Important Dates

Sunday, 24 September - Saturday, 30 September
Friday, 22 September
Tuesday, 3 October - Monday, 9 October
Monday, 9 October
Friday, 13 October
Monday, 16 October
Tuesday, 17 October
Wednesday, 18 October

Veniale Immersion Trip
Last Day Term 3 (3.25pm dismissal)
VCE Unit 3 and Unit 4 Trial Examinations (Full Summer Uniform)
Term 4 Commences
Year 10 Personal Safety Day
Student Leadership Seminar
SCSA Softball
Arts Festival (6.00pm – 8.30pm)

Teaching and Learning Leader

Achieving Excellence in VCE

For your daughter to obtain her absolute best in VCE requires motivation, commitment, positive thinking and self-belief. There are a number of keys to success spoken about by some of our highest achievers:

Motivation

Students are now coming off the back of the premiership quarter, with their SACs now complete, their energy levels are probably depleted. They are however about to enter 3/4 time and it's now more important than ever to maintain motivation. VCE has always been a marathon and not a sprint. Over these upcoming holidays it is a consistent approach to revision and the completion of multiple practice exams that will set your daughter up for success. It is this commitment and dedication to their goals that will get them true results. Over the upcoming trial examination period I challenge your daughters to remain focussed and determined and to give them her absolute best. The results of these examinations provide valuable feedback on her areas for growth and will help to inform the future direction of revision classes for her teachers.

Study Smart

Critical to success in the VCE examinations is understanding the topics and concepts, not simply memorising. It is important for your daughter to continue to consolidate the application of her knowledge. You can encourage her to do this by completing as many practice examinations as possible. Whilst your daughter will have been completing questions with her teacher throughout the year to prepare, there is a lot to be learned by now timing herself and completing full papers under examination conditions.

Take Responsibility

Whilst your daughter will continue to have access to her teachers and I strongly encourage her to maintain contact and seek feedback regularly it is now more important than ever that she be an independent learner. It is very easy once the constraints of the classroom are taken away from her to become distracted and less productive. Taking responsibility for her own learning will ensure the best preparation.

Domain Weeks

Over the last couple of weeks students were spoilt for choice at lunchtimes with a number of activities. From student run business offerings at the Business Fair and Famous Face History Challenges, to Cultural Quizzes and Soccer Matches, both the LOTE week and the Humanities week were a resounding success. My thanks to Mrs Marisa D'Astoli, Mr Christopher Moss and the teachers in both the LOTE and Humanities Domains for their work in coordinating these fun activities.

Jessica Hall

Teaching and Learning Leader

Faith and Religious Education

Year 9 Visit to Kensington Community

On Friday, 8 September 2017, Year 9 students had the privilege of visiting the Kensington Community Centre for our Faith Formation Day. This day was filled with guest speakers and lots of wellbeing-related activities within our Homerooms and our Year Level as a whole. We learnt about being made in the likeness of God, and that each of us is unique and important, even if we don't think so. The purpose of this day was to recognise the good things in yourself and in others – which was definitely achieved. Overall, the Year 9 students really enjoyed the day and truly believe that days like these help to bring out the best in everyone and bring our Year Level closer as a group.

Claudia Fox and Tara Clark Year 9

Refugee Homework Club

The Refugee Homework Club at St Albans, offered by the College, has given me the opportunity to tutor younger students that have migrated to Australia from overseas. Being involved in this program has given me many benefits, such as talking to other people that I would not normally interact with, create bonds with others and has also allowed me to step out of my comfort zone. This program has been very beneficial and I would encourage other students to take part in the Refugee Homework Club.

Olivia Cooke Year 11

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. (2 Cor 4:7)

It's so easy for us to be carried away by our egos! We 'believe our own press' and scheme for own advancement. Whether our schemes are successful or not, we can be left feeling empty. Or faults and failings will bring us down to earth. Yes, we each have our gifts and should treasure and develop them – but praise must go to the giver – God.

We do a delicate dance with the young people in our care. We must bolster them so that they see the good in their 'clay jars' – without becoming carried away nor without obsessing about their faults. Rather, in community, my faults are compensated by another's strengths and vice versa. The beauty of the body of Christ!

Patrick Jurd

Director of Faith and Religious Education



Refugee Homework Club—Nail Painting

Student Counsellor

International Day of Peace

Thursday, 21 September 2017 marks the International Day of Peace. Peace begins within, and for young people finding that sense of peace can be challenging, especially in a time of turbulence in our political and social worlds, and when families become more detached due to the rise of technology use in the home and long work and study hours. The International Day of Peace therefore offers an opportunity for reflection and acknowledgement, that family and home can offer a safe place from which to foster peace and calm for every individual.

In order to find world peace, we can start by looking at our own personal peace and the ways in which it is nourished and cared for. Prayer and meditation are wonderful ways to nourish inner peace and allow it to prosper. The inner peace found can then be directed outwardly to the world around you, through common courtesy and respect towards others.

For example, recognising how we deal with people and conflict within our family, on our roads, online, in the street, at social gatherings. There are many ways to react to situations, and role modelling peaceful *responses*, rather than *reactions*, provides a positive and peaceful antidote to the anger, violence and aggression occurring on so many levels in the world around us. As violence begets violence, similarly, peace begets peace. As mature adults and parents, we have a duty to learn and teach skills to the young, for the growth and integration of personal peace.

Making time for prayer and meditation bestows many gifts and strengths, nourishing an inner sense of calm that your children will also benefit from. The olive branch is of course the world symbol of peace. Why not extend an olive branch to someone this International Day of Peace, to heal an old wound, or help overcome a conflict. And embark on a journey for personal and world peace. A good place to start is [here](#)



Ceci Tankey
Student Counsellor

Careers Pathways News

Work Experience for 2018

Year 9 Students going into Year 10 should be sourcing Work Experience for 2018. The official date for Work Experience in 2018 is Monday, 25 June 2018 – Friday, 29 June 2018. The [Work Experience Planning Sheet 2018](#) and the [Work Experience Handbook 2018](#) are now available on Careers and Pathways in Announcements.

Year 10 students are reminded to complete and submit their Career Action Plans before the term break.

VTAC Applications

Year 12 Students are reminded that [VTAC applications](#), [Special Consideration and Special Entry Access Scheme \(SEAS\)](#) and [Scholarship applications](#) should be completed before Term break. Also, students applying for courses that have extra requirements (i.e. submitting a folio, a pre-selection kit, arranging an interview, etc.) are reminded that failure to meet the deadline date for these means students may no longer be eligible for selection into their desired course.

Australian Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship or traineeship is a training contract between an employer and an employee in which the apprentice or trainee learns the skills needed for a particular occupation or trade.

An apprenticeship or traineeship can be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis and can be used as a valuable stepping-stone to start a career in an industry you want to work in.

There are more than 500 occupations offering apprenticeships or traineeships – in traditional areas as well as a diverse range of emerging careers.

Why undertake an Australian Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships used to take up to around 4 years, depending on the occupation or industry. These days, apprenticeships are 'competency based', which means that you can complete your apprenticeship early when you reach the required level of skill. However, licensed trades – *electrical, floristry, plumbing and building* – are not yet 'competency based' and still require you to be an apprentice for 4 years in order to obtain registration in that trade. Visit [Australian Apprenticeships](#) to find out more

Helen Aliaga
Careers Pathways Co-ordinator

SKOOLBAG:

Skoolbag is the preferred communication tool for Ave Maria College. Please ensure you download the [Skoolbag App](#) to keep up to date with all Ave Maria College events and notifications.

faith learning

Ave Maria College welcomes all

Arts Festival 2017

Wednesday, 18 October 6.00pm to 8.30pm
Mary Centre and Francis Hall

Stunning student talent in:

Visual Exhibitions
Performance Arts
Film Screenings
Fashion Parade
Food Displays



AVE MARIA COLLEGE
A Catholic College for Young Women

