

The Southern Star

Principal

Mr Andrew Ponsford

Information Evenings

Thank you to many families and staff for your involvement this week in our Information sessions last Tuesday across Junior School, Middle School and Senior School for 2018. As well as providing the opportunity to meet members of staff and hear key information, the opportunity is an important one in 'building connections'. I do trust you found the occasion informative.

This year we did alter the format – three staggered sessions on the same night. We hope that this new arrangement provided convenience at a busy time of the year, as well as maintaining a high level of detail. Any feedback here would be appreciated.

Please note that the Senior School session contained important VCE information along with the distribution of the VCE Handbook – requiring the signing of the Acceptance of Conditions page. **This needs to be returned by all students / families involved in a 3/4 Subject by Thursday 22 February 2018.**

VCE Building – Official opening

You will shortly receive an electronic invitation to the opening of our new VCE Centre. The occasion is viewed as an important event in our seven year history and will involve several significant attendees as well as our students who will play a key role in hosting the event. Held at the end of the school day on Friday 16 March, the activity will involve our Senior School students and many of our musicians. We very much view this event as a whole school community occasion and celebration – to support planning and catering, RSVP information is very important and helpful.

Leadership Awards Assembly

Tomorrow we stage our second 'whole school' gathering to commence the school year – our Leadership and Awards Assembly. The occasion recognises the appointment of our 2018 leaders and recognition of our first 3/4 students for 2017. The Assembly (weather permitting) will be conducted on the JS lawn, commencing at 2pm. Parents are most welcome.

Critical Incident Management (CIM) Rehearsal

As part of our duty of care and in support of the welfare and safety of students and staff, a review of our Critical Incident Plan was held today, Thursday 15 February in JS. Further rehearsals of our evacuation and lock down procedures will be conducted.

Congratulations - Recent student Music achievements

An important dimension of our Newsletter is the acknowledgment of student success. On this occasion I wish to warmly congratulate the 12 students listed last week who performed extraordinarily well at recent AMEB Music Examinations all achieving Honors or High Distinction levels. An outstanding result!

Uniform – Soft-shell jackets

Currently Noone is out of stock of the soft-shell jackets in the smaller sizes and new stock are expected to arrive at the end of Term 1. As a result, Noone's are providing customers with a free sports polar fleece jacket to wear, while they await the new stock, to ensure that students don't get cold. A reminder that the sports fleece jackets are obsolete but students are still permitted to wear them until the end of 2018.

Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Ms Louisa Rennie

Elevate Education

Elevate Education is an Australian Study Skills provider. They are well known amongst many high performing schools in Victoria and across Australia and we are delighted to be introducing our Senior students to a tailor made series of workshops this year. Elevate Education have researched the study habits of thousands of past students, to identify a number of areas where the practices of the top students differ from average or lower performing students. Their workshops are topical and focused on explicit strategies to improve study habits, time management, and exam preparation. As we know, parents and teacher working together, are able to provide the support and guidance to students, to enable them to achieve their full potential. With this in mind, we will host a Parent meeting in the VCE Centre on Monday 5 March from 6:00pm – 7:45pm.

The meeting will commence at 6:00pm with a briefing on a number of VCE matters and a chance for parents to meet and connect over refreshments. The Elevate Education seminar will begin at 6:45pm. The Seminar is designed to create a common language between parents, students and staff around areas including time management, procrastination and technological distractions, motivation, stress and what it means to use effective study strategies. As Parents, you will also gain insight into how you can support your child to develop these skills at home. Support materials will be made available to parents at the Seminar. You can read more about Elevate here: www.elevateeducation.com

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Southern Cross Grammar

I am confident that your engagement in this seminar will provide you some strategies to support your child's learning and I would really like to see as many Senior School parents as possible at this event – your support is very much appreciated.

Uniform

Thank you to the many students who have started the school year with the correct uniform. All Senior students are reminded to review the Uniform Policy and ensure they are wearing their uniform with pride. In particular, please note;

- Hair must be well groomed and if long, should be tied back so that it is neatly above the collar.
- Make-up is not allowed
- Rings, necklaces, wrist chains or bands are not allowed (a single, non-visible religious symbol on a necklace is permitted)
- Girls with pierced ears are permitted to wear one pair of matching plain silver or gold studs or sleepers, one per ear. A small silver crystal/diamond is permitted. Earrings are not to exceed 3mm in diameter. No other visible body piercing is permitted
- From Year 10 only, boys with pierced ears are permitted to wear one single or one pair of matching plain silver or gold studs, one per ear. A small silver crystal/diamond is permitted. Earrings are not to exceed 3mm in diameter. No other visible body piercing is permitted
- Girl's dresses must be at least knee length
- Boy's shirts must be tucked in during class time and before and after school
- The Sport jacket is not to be worn over the top of the formal uniform
- The Anorak or Spray jacket is only for outdoor use only during PE classes in inclement weather (as instructed by
- Hats must be worn correctly during PE, Recess and Lunch during Terms 1 and 4.

Deputy Principal and Head of Teaching and Learning

Mrs Julie Baud

It has been an exceptionally busy start to the year for staff and students but hopefully the students have now settled back into their school routine and are feeling comfortable with their teachers and their learning environments. It has been lovely to meet the many new students and to watch how well they are adjusting to their new school community.

It was also wonderful to see so many parents attending the Information Nights held this week for all sections of the school. The 2018 VCE Student Policy Handbooks, distributed at the Senior School Information Night, formed the focus of the meeting for Senior School parents. Many very important VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority) and Southern Cross Grammar rules and policies associated with the VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) were presented to the parents of Year 10-12 students.

I cannot stress enough the importance of Senior School parents and students having an understanding of the contents of the Policy Handbook. It is extremely important families read through the booklet very carefully together and then discuss its contents. Families who have not received their copy should contact their son/daughter's Home Room teacher.

As per VCAA rules, all students undertaking a VCE subject will be asked to sign an agreement next week confirming they have read, understand and agree to abide by these rules. Time will be set aside at school beforehand to answer any questions students may have.

As mentioned during the Information Night presentations, "Together Everyone Achieves More", so if parents, staff and students work effectively as a team, our students can achieve more. Let's hope this can happen so they can all "achieve" this year.

Head of Middle School

Ms Janis Coffey

Chess Club

Any student from SCG who wishes to join Chess Club needs to register by tomorrow 16 February 2018 to commence on Monday afternoons from 3:15pm – 4:15pm. A minimum of 10 students across the School are required to run the club. Sign up now so you don't miss out! Visit Kids Unlimited at <https://ku.zone/explore>

Parent Information Evening

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our MS Information Evening this week. I spoke about the importance of critical and creative thinking; collaboration and entrepreneurial mindsets as key drivers for our Middle School programs. The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) has conducted some significant research in the area of 'New Work Smarts', or the skills needed for the future world of work. Our Year 5 students this year are likely to be entering the world of work in 2030. It will be a vastly different skillset needed according to FYA's research. Visit <https://www.fya.org.au/our-research/> to read more!

Year 9 Camp Information Afternoon for Parents and Students

Tuesday 20 February, we will host an Information Afternoon from 3:30pm – 4:30pm on the options for Year 9 Camp. The session will be held in Room C102 in the VCE Building. I look forward to seeing you there!



coles SPORTS for SCHOOLS 2018

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND GET COLLECTING

We would love your help collecting Coles Sports for Schools for our school. Tell your friends and family to get involved as well, because the more vouchers we collect, the more sports gear our school will receive.

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Head of Junior School

Ms Romina Pimpini

This week has had a real focus on *Community* in the Junior School. The attendance at our Junior School Information Evening on Tuesday was a true reflection of how important we work closely together to connect home-student-school. A warm thanks to all those who attended; I realise family time is important to us all, though this reflects how school provides students with a different sense of 'family' – belonging, support and encouragement.



Our PFA Banking Team hosted a stall with our CBA Banking representatives including 'Pru' the mascot. There was lots of fun to be had on the Hub decking where students learnt about starting to save money with a school banking account.

The first PFA meeting was very well attended on Wednesday evening.



This included an array of plans for fundraising and community connections throughout 2018 which will benefit our students and school community, as well as a mini-workshop on a *hot topic*.

Family members were informed about VCE and how it works. This forward-thinking and understanding of our children's compulsory schooling is valuable, as we work together to guide young learners in to active and responsible young people.

Student Laptops in 2018

Students in Year 7 to Year 12 have the choice of bringing a laptop, either Windows10 or MacOS operating system. Whilst not compulsory it is desirable that students have access to a device when required.

Students in Foundation to Year 6 are required to bring their own iPad to class, with students in Year 7 to Year 12 also welcome to bring an iPad in conjunction with their laptop.

All students have a school email address (firstname.lastname@students.scg.vic.edu.au) and access to Office365. Office365 (<https://login.microsoftonline.com/>) can be accessed via any internet capable device, any student who requires assistance with their password should contact their Homeroom teacher for assistance. Office365 provides access to Outlook and a range of Microsoft products (which save to the cloud) as well as the option to download a fully licensed version of the Office products onto the laptop.

Student Laptops

A reminder for families who purchased Acer laptops for students in 2017 (through the school), that have not put their laptop in for re-imaging. Please drop them into the MS Administration office at your earliest convenience.

2019 Enrolment Program

Mrs Danielle Andrews—Registrar

Please note that in mid-February we commence our interviews for Foundation 2019 placements. Year 7 interviews will commence in Term 2. Strong interest is evident and therefore it is important that sibling applications for 2019 are held by the School at this point. If you know of any interested family friends, applications need to be received immediately to avoid disappointment.

Canteen News

Reminder that the canteen on-line lunch ordering system has changed. Please see the following link to re-register for 2018:

<https://myschoolconnect.com.au/thelunchpad>

School Company Membership

Southern Cross Grammar is a company limited by guarantee to which individuals can join as company members for an annual \$10 fee. Becoming a company member entitles you to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held early in Term 2. Along with the School Board the AGM is attended by the Principal, Corporate Services Manager and representatives of our external auditor team from BDO Australia.

The AGM provides an opportunity to hear firsthand about the school's financial results and to ask questions of the Board. In the weeks leading up to the AGM company members will be asked to nominate fellow company members for election to fill vacancies on the School Board. When required elections are held at the AGM with only company members eligible to vote on these important appointments.

Company membership application forms are available from the School Reception located in the Junior School as well as online on the school's website www.scg.vic.edu.au by navigating to Information \ About Us \ School Board.