



The Southern Star

Southern Cross Grammar

Mr Andrew Ponsford
Principal

Welcome back!

Welcome back to our longest term and a very important one with regard to development, consolidation and growth.

Please note that later this week, in association with the first newsletter of the term, you will be provided with **confirmation of dates and events for Term 2** — this latest and final information has been added to the Semester 1 Calendar previously issued at the beginning of Term 1.

I also wish to advise, as is our customary practice, **Term dates for 2019** will be confirmed at the end of Term 2 to assist families with advance plans for next year. Also, a **calendar for Semester 2 2018** will be provided shortly, outlining key dates and events for the remainder of the current year. This is particularly important information for our senior students with regard to exams, presentation evenings and end of year arrangements.

Positive Education Conference

During the recent holiday period, Southern Cross Grammar played a central role at a national conference focusing on Positive Education held at Geelong Grammar's multi-million dollar, Wellness Centre over the last 4 days of the holidays.

Involving State Education Minister James Melino for an entire day, the conference focused on the wellbeing and mental health of young people across our nation.

Our own Head of Middle School, Ms Coffey played a key role in leading and facilitating several sessions including a special panel discussion on mindfulness practices in schools, where two Year 9 SCG students, Callum Weir and Tomai Laspas were part of a panel presenting to the 831 attendees!



It is very heartening to see our young school taking the lead on critical issues such as mental health, well-being and emotional intelligence. Numerous positive comments have been received on the highly impressive input of our young people.



Updates

I hope you will join me in welcoming the following new members of staff:

- ◆ **Maddison Attard:** Student Services Junior School (F-4) in a part-time capacity
- ◆ **Shellie Cooper:** Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator (F-12) in a part-time capacity
- ◆ **Lisa Denys:** Student Services Middle and Senior Schools (5-12) in a full-time role
- ◆ **Cynthia Drossinis:** Visual Arts – Learning Leader, replacing Ms Jane Barnes (maternity leave)
- ◆ **Kylie Lidgerwood:** Visual Arts, replacing Ms Emma Hewett in Junior and Middle School (F-9)
- ◆ **Chris Mitchell:** IT Manager (F-12) in a full-time role

The above appointments in the areas of Student Services and IT admin reflect the growth of services in support of expanding opportunities and needs across our School.

Other:

- Congratulations to Ms Cara Sharpe on the birth of Evie June on the 28 March.
- Our thoughts and wishes are with Ms Judith Gowdy, who learned on Day 1 of the very sudden passing of her mother. Judith has returned to NZ for a short period of time and impacted classes received a letter earlier in the week to advise of arrangements for this brief period.
- Students of Ms Victoria D'Alton and their families have received a letter advising of her departure at the end of term and replacement arrangements.



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Mrs Julie Baud Deputy Principal, Head of Teaching and Learning

Progress Reports were distributed to families at the end of Term 1. The focus in these reports was not on academic achievement, but the growth in each student's learning since the commencement of the school year, as well as the growth in other areas such as attitude towards learning, organisation, level of engagement and preparedness for classes.

Students should be encouraged to reflect on their Progress Report and to set some goals for Term 2 so they can maximise their opportunities for learning. I encourage parents to initiate these discussions; to be supportive, but at the same time, focus on strategies that can lead to improved performance and motivation. Important discussions can also take place during the upcoming Student Progress Interviews.

Term 2 is always a very busy term in schools, particularly for senior students. The General Achievement Test (GAT) is to be completed by all students enrolled in a Year 12 study (subject) on Wednesday 13 June and Mid-Year Exams are scheduled for Weeks 8 and 9 (7 June-14 June). NAPLAN Testing will also be upon us very soon for Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 (15-17 May).

Exam details will be released for the year levels involved in the coming weeks and teachers will assist students with their preparation for these exams. In the meantime, students can start their preparation by preparing notes, revising work completed in Term 1 and seeking assistance from their teachers if they do not understand any aspect of their work.

All the best to our students and families for a successful Term 2.

PFA—Volunteering

Volunteering has a large impact in our school community. Parent and Carer support plays a vital role, not just with raising funds, but in the day to day activities that take place in our School.

The Southern Cross Grammar Parents and Friends' Association exists to enhance and engage our school community. Fundraising is often but not always a by-product of this. We seek to create opportunities for students, parents, families to be involved. Be it an hour a year, or an hour a week.

Every year, our PFA organises several events such as the Mothers and Fathers' Day Stalls, School Disco and the Colour Run. As well as running our School Banking program and the "New to You" Uniform Shop.

We also aim to provide support for our teaching staff and classrooms by helping out in the Parent Resource Group. These important events and support tasks cannot happen without parent time and support.

We have several opportunities to volunteer this year, if you follow this link you will be able to register your availability to help out in any way you can. <http://ems.gs/3Aub0IhbbWh>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Private Screening 25 April 2018 4:30pm

Venue: Hoyts Watergardens

We have secured a whole cinema just for the SCG community, there are still have some tickets left for next Wednesdays event. Follow this link to secure your seat!

<https://www.trybooking.com/362444>

There will be spot prizes so come ready with all your Avengers knowledge!



Mothers Day Stall

Friday 11 May 2018



Our annual Mothers' Day stall is on its way, with gifts ranging from \$1 - \$15, its an exciting opportunity for students to do some shopping for the mum or special person in their family!

Colour Run

Friday 11 MAY 2018

3pm -6pm

Are your students registered? We are on the COUNTDOWN for a colour explosion at SCG!! Join us for a fun filled afternoon on the Ponsford Oval.

To help with planning, Both **CASH** and **ONLINE** fundraisers JUST set up a page at www.myprofilepage.com.au.





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Ms Louisa Rennie

Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Welcome back

Welcome back to all students and families. The term has started in a busy way and students have quickly taken to class, ready to tackle the term ahead. Parents are encouraged to oversee that students settle quickly into a routine at home, that allows for study and break time too.

Attendance and punctuality

All students are reminded of the importance of attending school on time and being punctual to classes. Please refer to page 15 of the VCE Student Policy Handbook for more information.

Students are expected to be at school by 8.20am. This will allow them 10 minutes to prepare for homeroom and the day ahead.

Communicating with us

Parents play an important role in their children's education and a strong partnership between parents and school enriches the learning experience. Parents are encouraged to make contact with the homeroom teacher in the first instance. Should the question or concern be in relation to a teaching matter, please approach the subject teacher, our teachers are keen to develop and maintain positive relationships with students, and this occurs best through transparent communication channels. We do our best to respond to you in a timely fashion. During the day, our time is often consumed with focusing on our students so we appreciate your patience. If we have not responded to you within 48 hours, please do offer us a gentle reminder.

ANZAC Day Assembly

We will come together as a school community on Tuesday 24 April 2018 from 2:10pm to commemorate ANZAC Day. Parents are welcome to attend. All students are expected to be in full school uniform. Students will be dismissed at the regular times, at the end of the Assembly.

Y10 – Y11 Elevate Education

On Friday 11 May all Y10 – Y11 students will attend their second Elevate Education session, with a focus on Time Management. The skills covered in the session will include:

- ◆ developing a study routine that allows for socialising, sport and extra-curricular activities but still ensures productivity
- ◆ identify the work that is going to get students the most marks across their final years and how to ensure that it gets done.
- ◆ leverage their time across the year by using study groups - a particularly powerful academic technique for time-poor students.

- ◆ identify the most common reasons underlying procrastination and how to manage them.

Last term our Y10 – Y12 students participated in a Study Skills session with Elevate Education; this was followed up with a Parent Seminar. Year 11 student Paris Laspas offers the following reflection:

“So far in Term 1, Senior students from Year 10 and Year 11 have attended ‘Study Sensei’ workshops. This workshop concentrated on showing us how to work consistently throughout the term, how to take notes to gain conceptual learning skills and how we can stand out during assessments.

In addition to the ‘Study Sensei’ workshops, Year 12 students also attended a ‘Time Management’ workshop that concentrated on how to study effectively, how to work smarter in order to maximise high marks, study groups and procrastination ‘The avoidance of doing a task that needs to be accomplished.’

Southern Cross Grammar staff and parents also attended workshops. For the parents who attended the Elevate Education workshop there were some valuable tips to provide effective support to their children during their senior school years. Tips were provided on what an ideal study environment could entail to maximise concentration and the role of technology in studying.

I’m convinced however that the involvement of parents in the Elevate workshops was a ruse to spy on us at home! I say this because within a couple of days I had a study timetable sitting on the dining table with lots of bright coloured tags named ‘school’, ‘study’, ‘downtime’ ‘work’ and in red ‘exams’ and ‘sac’, just to name a few. It is working really well so far!

I wish all the senior students good luck for this year and the years to come.” *Paris Laspas Y11*

Y10 Driver Education

We look forward to our Y10 students participating in the Driver Education Program on 14 and 15 May. The Driver Education Program is highly recommended by past students. *If your child has their L plates, they are able to bring their Learner’s book with them for driving time to be recorded.*

An amended Y10 timetable will be run for those students who choose not to participate in the Driver Education Program. Please ensure your child has returned their Student Contract form by Thursday 19 April.

Senior School Formal Dinner

Our Senior School students are preparing for their upcoming Senior School Formal. All Senior school students are expected to attend school on Friday 4 May, from 8:25am – 1:05pm.



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They will be dismissed at 1:05pm (lunch time) to provide them with some time to get ready for the formal dinner. Students are expected to be at the Lakeside Banquet Centre by 7:00pm. Please ensure your child has returned their RSVP form by Friday 20 April.



Australian Catholic University visit

On Friday, 20 of April, Australian Catholic University will conduct a presentation on what their university has to offer and the different Pathways available to students. Thank you to Mr Familiar for coordinating this valuable opportunity for all Year 10 students.

Student Progress Interviews

Today you will receive information and login details pertaining to online booking for Student Progress Interviews.

Student progress Interviews provide opportunity for parents to learn about their children's progress in school and for teachers to gain insights into their students' home and community lives. Parent perspectives on student strengths and needs, learning styles, and out of school learning experiences can help us as educators to shape our teaching methodology to suit student need.

All teachers will be available on the first two evenings and some teachers will be available on the third evening. All interviews will be conducted in the Middle/Senior School Building.

Student Progress Interviews will be held in Week 3B and 4A as follows:

- Monday 30 April from 3:20pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday 2 May from 3:20pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday 9 May from 3:30pm – 6:00pm.

We look forward to meeting with you.



School Sport Victoria

On Thursday 29 March, 17 Southern Cross Grammar students attended the Western Metropolitan Region Swimming Carnival in Geelong. This was following the huge success of the students at the Maribyrnong Division event a few weeks prior.

The competition was tough and as a school we were lucky enough to snare the following placings:

Lauren Jones, Lylana Anstee, Paris Laspas and Kayla Jones:

- 2nd** Women 17-20 Years Medley Relay
- 3rd** Women 17 Years Freestyle Relay



Kayla Jones:

- 1st** 12-15 Years 100m Freestyle
- 2nd** 12-15 Years 200m Freestyle
- 2nd** 12-15 Years 200m Individual Medley
- 3rd** 12-20 Years 100m Butterfly
- 3rd** 15 Years 50m Freestyle



Lauren Jones:

- 2nd** 12-20 Years 400m Freestyle
- 3rd** 16-20 Years 200m Freestyle
- 3rd** 17 Years 50m Backstroke

CONGRATULAIONS! to Kayla Jones and Jasmine Lim both winning **BRONZE** medals at School State Swimming Championships on Wednesday 18th April. Kayla in 12-15 Years 100m Freestyle and Jasmine in 11 Years 50m Freestyle. What an amazing achievement!





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Janis Coffey
Head of Middle School

Last week, the Positive Education School's Association held their 4th national conference here in Victoria. Principals, government officials, teachers and academics attended across the 4 days



to discuss and debate important topics relating to mental health and wellbeing for young people and in particular how schools can be facilitators of change.

Professor Lea Waters, the Gerry Higgins Chair of Positive Psychology at the University of Melbourne, delivered a keynote address on the Friday morning. Lea's recent work has focused on parenting and in specifically how parents can learn to switch on strengths in their children.

We often focus on what is wrong with our children (and often our students too!). However, what research actually shows us is that we are better off focusing on our children's strengths rather than their weaknesses or deficits. Lea has also developed a six-week online course for families called Strengths Based Parenting. I encourage parents and families to sign up for the course at

<https://www.strengthswitch.com/>

What your family will learn and experience

- * Help you find a new and positive way of seeing the qualities and talents in each other
- * Create an energizing and fun approach to parenting and family communication
- * Give you a lens to understand the perspectives and motivations of other family members
- * Provide ways to uncover new strengths in each family member that you may not have seen before.
- * Foster a bonding family approach that builds warmth, trust and happiness

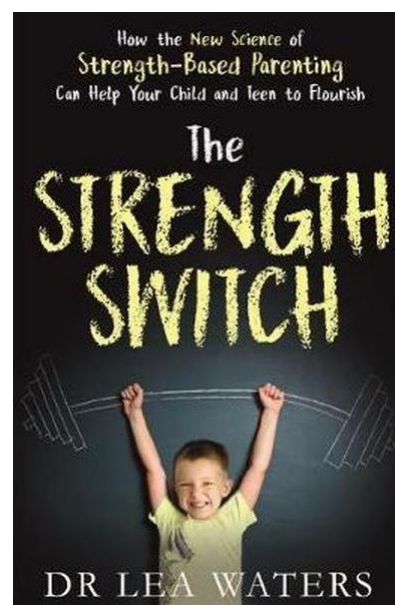
This course, designed by [Professor Lea Waters \(Ph.D\)](#) and produced by [Lela McGregor \(MAPP\)](#) is made up of 5 sessions, completed over 5 weeks.

Each session is made up of:

- a) an online Parent Lesson with Lea
- b) Family Time
- c) Keeping It Alive activities where you get to practise your new skills during the week. We also give you extended learning opportunities and share the underlying science behind the lessons, if you want to learn more.

The course is broken into 5 key learning sessions as follows:

- SESSION #1:** Understanding Strengths
- SESSION #2:** Seeing Strengths
- SESSION #3:** Using Strengths
- SESSION #4:** Growing Strengths
- SESSION #5:** Celebrating Strengths



Term 2 Chess Club

Remember to sign up for Chess Club on Monday afternoons at Chess Kids Unlimited! Sessions run after school on Mondays.



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Ms Pimpini
Head of Junior School

Term 2 has certainly begun with a spring in our step this week.

Junior school students began positively this week in our Junior School assembly, where we were entertained by our Foundation students and their Easter Hat Parade.

There was much care and thought put in to designs and colour over the term break – and we hope family members had fun helping out!



Students of FBU & FRM showing off their crafty Easter hats



Keeping up with Easter fashion at SCG is a 'tall order' sometimes...

We were also entertained by our Year 3 students, accompanied by Mr Familiari on the guitar, as they sung *Stand by Me*. Congratulations Year 3s!



We also announced our Class Captains for Term 2 – and as we look ahead to have them role model SCG behaviours to their peers, we know they will be supported by their class mates.

During the term break, several SCG staff attended the PESA Positive Education Conference at Geelong Grammar, with a theme of *connect*.



To conclude our JS Assembly, I put the challenge to all students of the Junior School to *connect* with 11 new people this term...that's one per week!

Let's see who might be up for the challenge?

If we succeed, who knows just how *connected* we will be at our very special SCG.



A reminder that Term 2 sees the inception of our winter uniform, which includes winter shorts or long pants for boys.

It is important for students to arrive at school in uniform each day.

Many thanks to parents and families for their support in this matter.

School Photo Day 2018



Tomorrow is our School Photos Day.

By now, your child/ren should have brought home their personalised Photo Order envelopes.

All students will be photographed, both individually and as a member of their Homeroom. Given this, it is expected that students are dressed proudly in their full formal uniform on this occasion.

Detailed information has been communicated via email to all families in the lead-up to our Photo Day, so we hope all students will be on time, prepared and looking their best!

Annual General Meeting

A reminder that the School Company Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the evening of Monday 23 April 2018.



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Thursday 19 April 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and SCG Students

I do hope that the recent holiday period was a very relaxing and enjoyable time for all concerned following a highly successful commencement by many students.

On behalf of the Executive staff and the teaching team, I extend best wishes to you for a most rewarding Term 2. As our longest term, it is a highly formative period and we wish our students well for the eleven weeks ahead.

As mentioned at the end of last term, I write to update you further with regard to our refreshed logo and future uniform replacement. With the launch of the logo in conjunction with the official opening of our new VCE Centre, families will see the school transitioning, most obviously, in terms of our letterhead on paper and electronic correspondence as well as other items featuring the school's brand.

Special consideration has been given to the gentle phasing-in of the refreshed logo on uniform items. In accordance with this, please note that an 18 month transition period is planned. This will provide families with a 2-season turn-around. In a practical sense, this means that the current winter uniform for instance can be worn for the 2018 and 2019 seasons. This should ensure meaningful use prior to 'wear and tear' and / or growth requiring the updating of items.

Noone will continue to sell the current school uniform and will exhaust their current uniform supply before introducing the refreshed logo. As stock needs replenishing, Noone will introduce the refreshed logo on all relevant uniform items over the next 6-12 months.

By the commencement of the 2020 school year, no items of uniform should feature the original school logo.

Along with the refreshed logo and the opening of the VCE Centre, I am now very much looking forward to the launch of our new website which is imminent.

With best wishes

Andrew Ponsford
Principal