Dear Families, Students and Community Members,

As we approach the end of term, our students should all be working hard to ensure assessment tasks and school work is completed and submitted to their personal best. The Year 10 and 11 examinations started on Monday and Year 12 students begin their practice examinations on Friday. These will continue throughout next week. Examinations provide Senior School students with the opportunity to become skilled in examination techniques to enable them to be as well prepared for their final VCE examinations as possible. Very clear expectations have been set for all senior students and these examinations are held in a formal way, in line with VCE requirements.

It is a busy but exciting time for our Year 10 students who, after finishing exams this week, will spend next week undertaking work experience and then participating in Careers Quest and exam feedback the following week. On Thursday 18th June, the Senior School information night will be held in conjunction with the Career Expo so please refer to page 4 and note the times for attendance.

Over the next two weeks the SEAL and Advance classes in Year 9 will be participating in the City Week experience. We hope they have some dry weather as they undertake this wonderful opportunity which is a significant part of the Year 9 program and always referred to by senior students as a highlight of their Mordialloc College school experience.

EVERY DAY COUNTS
Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

WHY IT’S IMPORTANT
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. Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study. Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.
There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with falling behind in subject topics and assessment tasks, and leads to fewer subject choices and may impact on achievement in years 11 and 12.

GETTING IN EARLY
It’s never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at Year 9, when attendance rates for all students are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts. Schools are there to help – if you’re having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy; the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with their home group teacher or year level coordinator and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with their teachers or year level coordinator and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with their home group teacher or year level coordinator as early as possible.

Openly communicating with us about attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your year level coordinator, sub school director or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

You can monitor your child’s attendance at any time by logging on to the Compass portal using the same login and password provided to access your child’s report each term. To give you a rough guide of what the percentages equate to, if your child’s overall attendance is \(90\% = \text{average 1 day off every fortnight and } 80\% = \text{1 day off a week}\).

Regular attendance at school is vital to your child’s long term success, not just academically but also socially. Please remember – Every Day Counts.

Miss Jennifer Roep
Assistant Principal
Important Dates

June 2015
Thursday 4
- Y11 VCAL: The Big Issue Classroom
- Y10 & 11 Exams continue
Friday 5
- Y12 Practice Exams 5-11
Monday 8
- Queen’s Birthday Holiday
Tuesday 9
- Y10 Work Experience 9-12
Wednesday 10
- GAT
Friday 12
- STUDENT FREE DAY - Report Writing Day
Monday 15
- Y7 Ancient Civilisations Expo & Breakfast
- SMR Cross Country
- Y12 VCAL Democracy Excursion
- Start of VCE Unit 2
- Y10 Exam Feedback
- Finance Meeting 4.00pm
Tuesday 16
- Y11 VCAL: Wallara Facility visit
Wednesday 17
- Y10 Career Quest 17-19
- Y10 University Campus Visit
Thursday 18
- Career Expo
- Senior School Information Night 6.00-8.30pm
- School Council 5.00 pm
Friday 19
- Y8 Round Robin
- Y10 Experience Holmesglen Day
Monday 22
- Y7C & 7F Museum excursion
Tuesday 23
- Y7 Round Robin
Thursday 25
- Y7 A,B,D & E Museum excursion
Friday 26
- Last day of Term 2
- Senior Formal

July 2015
Monday 13
- First day Term 3
Wednesday 15
- Y12 VCE Drama - Student Exam Day
Thursday 16
- VSSSA State Cross Country

Year 7 Fabrics Champions

7A Fabrics Champions completed their soft toys and celebrated finalising the challenge. Some are lining up for the needlework section at the Royal Melbourne Show! I hope you enjoy their fine work.

Mrs Napolitano
Year 7 Fabrics Teacher

Mordialloc College staff and students share and proudly demonstrate our agreed values of:

Personal Best
Integrity
Respect
Responsibility
Our Peer Support Program is an important part of our school community and last term we had fantastic involvement, with 29 Year 10 students volunteering to participate. This program aims to support the transition of Year 7s to Mordialloc College.

Year 10s were trained in leadership, communication and team building skills which they have used to help Year 7s this term, through a range of activities and games.

We all know year 7 can be a tough transition but we saw them enjoying the workshops with the Year 10s and participating in the get-to-know-you activities. This was fun for both year levels and ensured our newest students formed strong relationships with older peers, giving them the opportunity to find a friendly, older face around the school when needed.

Lana Paten  
Chaplain

On Tuesday 19 May, Mordialloc College celebrated IDAHOT day – that is the International Day Against Homophobic, Transgender and Intersex Bullying – commonly known as Rainbow Day. During this day many of our school community wore a rainbow accessory at school and there was a celebratory Hip Hop D. J, Yo Mafia, at lunchtime. The students were demonstrating that they believed that all people have the right to live in a fair and safe world. This also showed that they believed that any form of bullying related to one’s sexual or gender diversity is not acceptable.

One in 10 people will identify as being diverse in sexuality and or gender (SGD). This is a statistic that is throughout the world and history. It is also known that most young people who identify as SGD will experience verbal, social or physical abuse and 80% of this typically happens at school (Hillier et al, 2010). This is distressing to them, not because of their diversity but because of the abuse.

A clear majority of the students of Mordialloc College took a stand against this with the colours of the rainbow being quite prominent on the day and there was standing room only in the hall at lunchtime. The students who are members of the Respect Group (the ‘gay/straight’ alliance group) worked hard for weeks before making rainbow icons, ranging from ribbons to badges. These were distributed throughout the day. It is fair to say that most members of the school community wore the rainbow colours. This showed outstanding support for our students who may identify as being SGD.

Many thanks to the school community for supporting this initiative.

Jenny Muir

College Values - Student Pledge

“As students of Mordialloc College, we are determined to achieve our personal best, not only academically, but in sports, the arts and in the wider community. We will constantly strive to be the best we can be. We will endeavour to take responsibility for our actions, owning up to mistakes and helping others out when in need. We will be respectful towards all teachers and students, and we will be true to ourselves by being honest and trustworthy.”
Mordialloc College

VCE AND VCAL

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

THURSDAY 18 JUNE

Find out all you need to know about the Senior School programs available at Mordialloc College:

- Learn the program structures and policies of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority
- Speak with teachers about the subjects available
- Enjoy interactive and informative subject stalls
- Visit the Career Expo in the Hub

Formal presentations in the Learning Centre:

Year 10 - 7.00pm (compulsory)
Year 9 - 6.00pm (students interested in studying a VCE subject in 2016)
Year 9 SEAL - 6.30pm (in the Glasshouse; compulsory)

For more information contact Shelley Muir, Director of Senior School on 9580 1184 or email muir.shelley.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

♦ PERSONAL BEST ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ RESPECT ♦ RESPONSIBILITY
Mordialloc College & Parkdale SC

Careers Expo
Thursday 18th June 2015
6-8 pm
All Year 9 –12 students & their families welcome

Do you want to...

Choose the right subject & courses?

Discover new career options...

Find out from the experts about:
- Entry requirements for courses & careers
- Advice on school subject selection, grades and successful applications
- VCE, VCAL and VETiS options
- What makes their organisation unique
- Training and pathway options
- Apprenticeship options

...Discover your future

Exhibitors & Presenters
- ACU University
- Deakin University
- Chisholm
- Holmesglen
- Monash University
- RMIT
- Swinburne University
- Victoria University
- La Trobe
- TAFEs
- Training organisations
- Trade / Industry Groups
- Apprenticeship Centres
- Australian Defence Force
- Community Services

Venue
Mordialloc College
1 Station Street
Mordialloc, VIC 3195

Enquiries
Email: jamieson.jane.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
Phone: 8587 0546 or 9580 1184
Work Experience – why is it useful and how do you get the most out of it?

I often ask the students if, when deciding on what type of car they want, would they spend $10,000 by only researching on the internet and talking to friends. Wouldn’t they take it for a test drive first? Students get to take their career interests on a ‘test drive’ through participating in the Year 10 Work Experience program. What most students don’t realise is that they can also do extra work experience in the school holidays and are encouraged to do more while they are in training at university and TAFE.

I used to recruit for media companies like MTV, BBC and DK Publishing in London. Media companies are notoriously difficult to get into if you don’t know someone on the inside. Anyone wanting to get their foot in the door was advised to ask for work experience. If companies could see they were really interested in their industry and it was less about the money and more about what they could learn from observing and helping out where possible, they often worked their way into a paid position. At the very least, they got valuable experience, insight and a reference that could be added to their resume.

It was at interviews, that I also saw how work experience really paid off. Applicants with relevant work experience, actually had something useful to say about why they wanted to work in our organisation during their interviews. They were nearly always the ones who got the job!

How to get the most out of your work experience

- Research the organisation – do they have a website? What can you find out about them on Google?
- Research about the training options – Ask staff about their careers and how they go into their job, what they like and what are the challenges. Research using http://myfuture.edu.au/ and the Job Guide for a range of career options.
- Ask questions everyday – employers see this as a sign that you are interested.
- Dress the part - You will blend in if you look a little like the other employees. If you don’t know what to wear – ring them up.
- Use your initiative – look around for things to do. Ask them for more work once you have done the task you have been asked to do.
- Be willing to do the ‘boring stuff’ – give it 100%
- Be mindful that this is a work environment – no phones until you are on an official break. If you have an office job with a computer...do not check your social media on their computers.
- Ask them if they offer students part-time work, holiday jobs, internships etc. Every year students get a paid part-time job from their work experience.
- Ask your supervisor if they would be prepared to give you a reference. Make sure you get their contact details if they say yes. Keep in touch with them and call them if you have been to an interview and know they may be called.
- Think about what you have learned about yourself. Can you see yourself working in this type of job or company and environment? Are you more ambitious? Do you need to go to Uni or TAFE?

Other ways students can research their options are by taking part in the visits to RMIT and Holmesglen as well as the Career Expo on Thursday 18th June from 6-8pm, which all Year 9-12 students and their families are invited to attend.

We are also excited that Peter Coronica from Finger Print Me will be coming to talk to students about the value of work experience and part-time jobs on Friday 19th June. He has written a highly readable and well received book, “Your Boss's Boots”. If you decide to purchase his book, students can also request his autograph: http://www.yourbosssboots.com.au/

Jane Jamieson
Careers and Pathways Co-ordinator
Dobson’s Uniform Shop at Mordialloc College
Trading Hours
Monday 8.30 - 11.30
Wednesday 12.30 - 4.00
Situated off the foyer of the School Hall
Telephone: 9587 0738
Please note the Uniform Shop is not open during the school holidays.

You can find Mordialloc College on Facebook by typing Mordialloc College into the search bar, then clicking ‘Like’. If you like us you will receive information about upcoming news and events within your newsfeed - just another way we are improving digital communication within our College community. For more information contact Mrs Lisa Ip.

We will be closed Mon 8th for Queens Birthday Public Holiday
The shop will be open on Sat 11th July 9am -12noon

News from Chelsea Heights Community Centre
On 25th June 7pm we will be showing the movie ‘Food Matters’ – a gripping documentary looking at ‘natural approaches’ to preventing and reversing chronic diseases. Bookings can be made by phoning 0487 427 398.

Stay warm and have fun this winter – come and join the friendly groups in our big hall – on Wednesday nights social table tennis 7.30pm to 9pm and on Friday nights from 7.15pm ballroom dancing – an evening of new vogue, modern and latin dancing – no partner, no problem!

On Wednesday mornings from 9.30am to 11am Playgroup welcomes families (children 0-6 year olds), a great venue with indoor and outdoor play and a fabulous collection of toys and activities.

Ring 9772 3391 to book, for more details or our Term brochure, and please visit our website for a full program at www.chelseaheightscommunitycentre.com.au or just drop on by.

Full-day hands-on event for female students in Year 10
Tuesday, 30 June, 2015 / 10am – 4.30pm
Clayton Campus, Monash University
Free entry + Free morning tea + Free lunch

Register at www.eng.monash.edu/engenuity
For further information, please contact Melanie: melanie.talani@monash.edu - 03 9902 6108
Community Notice Board

Financial Assistance
Information for Parents

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

How to Apply
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Closing Date
You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 26 June 2015.

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Assistance is available for eligible families. Application forms have been emailed to all Mordialloc College families last week and are also available at the College Office.

Please complete and return the application form as soon as possible before 26 June 2015, together with a copy of your concession card.

Late applications cannot be accepted.