I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Point Cook Senior to all new students and their families, and especially families who are completely new to the school community. I would also like to welcome back all the continuing students and their families, as well.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new staff to the school, and those returning from leave. As the student numbers at the school have continued to grow significantly, we welcome many new staff:

- Stephen Blankendaal (English)
- Elisabetta Celata (English, English Language)
- Jules Damschke (English; Teaching and Learning Leader)
- Mary Dimech-Hill (VCAL Work Related Skills; Pathways and Careers Leader)
- Bryce Flannery (English, History, VCAL Personal Development Skills)
- Isobel Hawkins (Legal Studies, English)
- Lloyd Hutchison (Maths, Science)
- Serene Kotob (Business Management, Legal Studies)
- Tariq Muhammad (Maths, Science)
- Vanessa Riley (Art, Visual Communication)
- Annabelle Roper (Maths, Science)
- Bruce Williams (Maths, Science)

I am also delighted to welcome back Shannyn Mahon (Business Management) who has returned from leave.

The new academic year has started well. I had the pleasure of addressing students on the first school day and was very happy with the enthusiasm and energy across the group. I used this time to highlight the diverse range of opportunities and pathways available for students at Point Cook Senior, recognising the enormous variety of talents and interests of the young people under our care. I also emphasised the importance of a focus on individual endeavour and growth to enable all students to achieve their potential. Growth is about challenge – meeting learning experiences that are not immediately doable and knowable, and moving through these to attain new knowledge, skills and understandings. I asked our students to find challenge in their learning in the classroom and in the broad range of other activities available at our college, to focus on growing and developing rather than just doing what is familiar and easy. Our school motto is “strive for success” – and this carries with it the importance of effort, participation and persistence. I encouraged our students to have high expectations of themselves, as we have such expectations of and for them.

As you look over the pages in this edition of the newsletter, you will find information about some of the opportunities I suggested that our students pursue. You will find mention of clubs and societies (such as the botanical society, the debating club and the manga club), music lessons, sports training and events, and after-school help sessions with academic learning. I encourage all our students to try something new or continue with an area of interest to broaden and deepen their skills and talents during this important period of their growth and development.

Similarly, you will see reports in this newsletter about the orientation advisory programs that ran at each year level during the second week of this term, and the way in which each complemented the college’s multiple foci on academic challenge and progress, student wellbeing and successful pathways for all.

Looking back for a moment, our 2014 results were very pleasing. Our graduating VCAL students have now moved on to either employment or further study and our VCE students have used their achievements to obtain places in tertiary institutions or the workforce. It was very gratifying to see 89% of our students who applied through the VTAC process receive an offer of a tertiary place in the first round. We wish the very best for our Class of 2014 as they enter a range of new and exciting adventures. We look forward to hearing of their achievements in years to come.

As we move ahead into this new school year, we also look forward to witnessing the achievements of our current students as they embrace challenges, participate fully to the best of their ability and take every opportunity to learn and grow.

Darryn Kruse
Principal
YEAR 12 STUDY CAMP

Year 12 Study Camp was a hit. The three day event was jam packed with motivational speakers, sporting, team building activities...and of course study techniques. Students loved experiencing university life at La Trobe University and commented on the independent, young-adult learning environment. The camp was a perfect start to an important year for 2015 and we wish all Year 12s the best for 2015.

YEAR 10 ORIENTATION

The new Year 10s had an action packed start to their Point Cook Senior education with the Advisory Orientation Program which was held in Week Two. Students were divided into three groups and took part in a three day rotation of activities to introduce them to their new classmates, teachers and school. Activities included a fiercely competitive tug-of-war round robin where students strained their muscles for the glory of the win. This was followed by an (aero) dynamic paper plane competition that tested design as well as distance. Students also got into the study mindset with a time management session from Elevate Education and a careers expo which got them thinking about their subject choices for the coming years. However, the highlight of the week was the excursion to Westgate Indoor Sports Centre where students: bounced, flipped and spun in the trampolining centre; played dodge-ball, soccer and netball; and tested the blood pressure of their new teachers by scaling dizzying heights on the rock-climbing walls. Students had a fantastic time over the three days and have made a great start to their first year at Point Cook Senior.
YEAR 11 ORIENTATION

When I was getting a frozen coke at Adventure Park in Geelong on the last day of our three days of Year 11 Orientation, the girl at the counter asked “Are you here with a group?”. (Ha, yes, there are over two hundred and fifty of us, I laughed to myself.) “Yes, this is Year 11 from Point Cook Senior.” “Wow,” she said, “What a great way to start the year!”

The three days included study skills sessions, motivational speakers, time out with different groups to explore issues that affect young people at this time in their lives, good food, and good fun.

Year 11 Advisory Teachers rolled their sleeves up and got stuck into supervising the activities and Mr Schorback hovered about tying up loose ends to all his planning efforts for the three days.

Thankyou to everyone that was involved. It really was a great way to begin 2015.

Ms Simpson – Assistant Team Leader Year 11
**MOTIVATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER**

Paul de Gelder was most definitely an inspiration and provided great motivation for all who had the pleasure of hearing him speak. Turning his life around from being a young teen who lacked any drive to succeed, to joining the army and going on to the navy to turn his life around, was just one of the many motivational stories Paul shared with us from his life. The most inspirational, however, was his attitude and his determination to continue living his life after going through a horrific shark attack that left him without an arm and a leg and threatened to end his life. In the short time with Paul, he taught us that no matter what the situation you may find yourself in, it is up to you to change it and make it what you want it to be. He showed us that nothing is ever too hard to achieve or to overcome, and his life story is proof of this. Having Paul personally come and share the challenges and struggles that he has faced was a great experience that will have a lasting impact on us all. He has given us all the encouragement and motivation to live life to the fullest and to strive to achieve our goals, reminding us that nothing is out of reach.

Jennifer Bou

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**Extracurricular Activities**

**Clubs and Societies**

- **Botanical Society** – gardening and sustainability at PCS
  Monday Lunchtimes / Green Room

- **Debating Club** – Learn the gift of the gab through interschool debating
  See Ms Marie or Ms Lambrianidis for expressions of interest

- **Guitar Lessons** – Tuesdays / Sign up Required!

- **Manga Club** – for lovers of comics, manga and anime
  Wednesday Lunchtimes /502

- **The Breakfast Club** – a free healthy breakfast and chance to meet some other students
  Every Friday morning from 8am

Have a great idea for a new club? See Ms Newman or your student leaders

**Sport**

- **Girls Time in the Gym** - Every Wednesday Lunchtime
- **Senior Boys Basketball** – Training every Monday and Friday after school
- **Intermediate Boys Volleyball Training** – Monday Lunchtime in the Gym
- **Intermediate Girls Volleyball Training** – Friday Lunchtime in the Gym
- **Intermediate Tennis (boys and girls)** – Monday and Wednesday Lunchtimes on tennis courts

**Homework Help**

- **English**
  600s Building, every Wednesday after school

- **English Language**
  Room 102. 3:15pm every Second Wednesday (week 5, week 7, week 9)

- **Media and Visual Communication Design**
  Room 508 every Monday and Wednesday afternoon

- **Health**
  See Ms Dansie for a morning homework help
Breakfast Club

Where: Room 312
When: Fridays
Time : 8.00am – 8.30am
All welcome

Point Cook Senior Secondary College would also like to sincerely thank the Bendigo Bank for their ongoing support towards our Breakfast Program.

The Breakfast Program has been beneficial in supporting those students in need and also developing relationships between staff and students. It also improves student wellbeing, supporting them in improving their outcomes. It is with the support and generosity of the Bendigo Bank that this program continues to be successful.

24 Hour ABSENCE HOTLINE

9395 5157

Email: sterck.karen.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Late Arrivals - Students are requested to report to the attendance office to obtain a late pass immediately upon arrival.

Early Leave - Students can obtain an early leavers pass either before school or at recess. A written note or phone call from a parent or guardian is required.

Parents are requested to provide confirmation of all student absences via a note from parent/guardian, phone call or email.

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 1:

12th March – Year 10 Immunisation Program Injections
18th - 20th March – Year 11 Outdoor Ed Study Camp
26th March – Western Region Swimming
26th March – Parent Teacher Interviews (evening)
27th March – Parent Teacher Interviews (morning)
27th March – Year 12 Further Maths SAC
27th March – Term 1 End

13th April – Term 2 Commence

20th April - 6th May – Youth Mental Health First Aid
1st May – Curriculum Day

13th May – Hobsons Bay Division Cross-Country
7th - 8th May – Year 11 College Production
14th May – Hobsons Bay Senior Winter 1 Sports
20th May – Hobsons Bay Intermediate Winter 1 Sports
25th May – College Athletics Day

1st - 5th June – Year 10 & Year 11 Revision Week
4th June – Science Fair

8th June – Queens Birthday Public Holiday
9th - 12th June – Year 10 & Year 11 Mid-Year Exam Week
10th June – GAT all students enrolled in Unit 3 & 4
11th June – Western Region Cross Country
15th - 19th June – Year 10 Work Experience Week
19th June – Hobson Bay Division Senior Winter 2 Sports
STRENGTHENING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Parent Information Evening

Wyndham City together with FMC Mediation and Counselling Victoria are presenting a parent information night which aims to provide support and information to parents and young people in the Point Cook community.

The topics presented and explored will be communication skills, modelling behaviours, strategies to deal with strong emotions, awareness of self and others and information on developmental stages in adolescence and how it impacts family relationships.

DATE: Thursday 19th March, 2015
LOCATION: Point Cook Learning Centre, Community Room 1
1-21 Cheetham St, Point Cook
TIME: Registration at 6:45pm for 7pm start

This will be an interactive information session with the opportunity for questions. For more information call the Youth Resource Centre on 8734 1355.

Register your attendance to: rosie.barbara@wyndham.vic.gov.au and go in the draw to WIN 1 of 2 books to take home at the end of the evening by Andrew Fuller ‘Tricky Teens’.

www.wyndham.vic.gov.au