In my last newsletter report I mentioned the college’s respect for and celebration of diversity, and I would like to make that my focus once again. I wrote last time about the wonderful mix of cultures, backgrounds, sexual and gender orientations, belief systems and histories that make up the Point Cook Senior community. I would like this time to reflect a little on the concept of learning diversity – the fact that our students learn in a variety of ways and with a range of aspirations. Diversity is indeed one of our very important values, and underpins our college motto, “Strive for Success”. Success comes in many forms, but the thing that stays constant is the need to strive – to set goals, work hard to attain them, and reflect on achievements and areas for improvement.

In reading over many student reports over the last week, and attending a range of exciting events across the college, I have been struck by the diversity of learning opportunities offered at Point Cook Senior and pursued by our students. From its very inception, an important main purpose for having a large senior college situated right in the centre of Point Cook was to ensure that the young people in the area had access to a broad range of pathways to further education and work, and thus had access to a broad range of life choices and opportunities. As our college continues to grow, that vision gets closer to being fulfilled. So, as I have read over the reports, I have been delighted to read of the achievements of so many of our students in so many different ways.

Those reports will be available via Compass by the end of the day on Friday 26 June. I would encourage our students and their parents or caregivers to read over those reports carefully, noting and celebrating the successes (and the unique collection of successes that each individual student achieves), but also to note the areas for improvement – the next opportunities to strive for even greater outcomes. I would highly recommend reflecting on the indications of effort contained in each report and carefully contemplating the teacher comments, which in almost every case will provide suggestions for those next steps.

As an aside, I would also recommend that you consider together the attendance indicators on the reports. There is a significant body of research that suggests that the more regular a student’s attendance at school, the better their learning outcomes will be. And, as I have looked through the reports, I have seen a strong relationship between outstanding results and high levels of attendance for individual students at our college. When looking at the attendance information, I suggest thinking about what the percentages look like in terms of actual days out of school. For example, even a percentage of 90% means that a student has missed an average of one day a fortnight.

Returning to the theme of diversity, I am enormously proud that our college offers pathways into so many different areas of life – higher education, a wide number of professions, sporting and performing arts areas, a variety of highly skilled trades, etc. I am proud that we offer a broad range of VCE subjects, acceleration opportunities, select entry academic programs, and more hands-on programs like VET and VCAL. I am equally proud that there are a broad range of areas for our students to focus on both inside and beyond the classroom – in this newsletter, you will find mention of things such as our student leadership program, sports development, high academic performance, careers development, performing arts, and some of our many clubs and societies (such as the anime club).

People learn in a range of different ways, all equally valuable. Young people come to us with a diverse range of learning styles, interests, capabilities, aspirations and potential directions. We value this diversity enormously and strive to offer opportunities for success for all. At Point Cook Senior, students are creating their future – and that future can be anything.

I would like to wish all members of the school community a wonderful mid-year break. I hope you get to spend some quality time with your families and friends. May you have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable two weeks. We look forward to our students’ return on Monday 13 July.

Darryn Kruse
Congratulations to the following students, who were top achievers in their subjects for Semester 1, 2015.

**Semester 1 Academic Awards 2015**

**Year 10 Academic Achievement**

**English**
- English: Vivian Nguyen
- English (EAL): Jiarui Li
- Enhancement English: Ruby Bovdis

**Mathematics & Science**
- Intermediate Mathematics: Tayla Roberts
- Advanced Mathematics: David Zhang
- General Science: Syeda Alema Haider
- Advanced Science: Hasna Zulfa

**History & PE**
- History: Stephen Riosa
- Physical Education: Natasha Milner

**The Arts & Technology**
- Art: Lexi Boardman
- Graphic Design: Kristen Atkinson-Leach
- Media: Amira Azme
- Clothing and Design: Casey Van Der Riet
- Food and Technology: Antony Vannalath
- Dance: Merania Tairea

**VCE & AVID**
- AVID: Melissa Zor
- Accelerated General Mathematics: Natasha Milner (2nd award)

**Year 11 Academic Achievement**

**English**
- English: Samuel Luckett
- English as an Additional Language: Leanne Lim (2nd award)
- English Language Literature: Leanne Lim

**Mathematics**
- General Mathematics: Zi Minn Goh
- Mathematical Methods: James Thomas

**Science**
- Biology: Zi Minn Goh (2nd award)
- Chemistry: Zi Minn Goh (3rd award)
- Physics: Alex Miers
- Psychology: Leanne Lim (3rd award)

**Business & Humanities**
- Accounting: Jenni Bou
- Business Management: Darcy Leadoux (2nd award)
- Economics: Alex Miers
- Legal Studies: Samantha Dizon
- Twentieth Century History: Lauryn Skeels
- Information Technology: Dylan Simpson

**Health & PE**
- Health and Human Development: Zi Minn Goh (4th award)
- Outdoor and Environmental Studies: Jake Williams
- Physical Education: Scott Brown

**The Arts & Technology**
- Studio Arts: Sabrina Zor
- Media: Erin H MacKellin / Ainsley Turner (4th award)
- Visual Communication Design: Leanne Lim
- Product Design and Technology [T]: Sharnelle Chandler
- Product Design and Technology [W]: Kosta Varvarousis
- Food and Technology: Hasna Siraj
- Theatre Studies: Erin H MacKellin (2nd award)

**VCAL**
- Intermediate PDS: Justin Bonello
- Foundation English: Joshua De Santa-Ana
YEAR 12 ACADEMIC ENDEAVOUR

Top achievers will be awarded at the Year 12 Valedictory dinner.

Congratulations to the following students, who were high performers in their Unit 3 studies for Semester 1, 2015.

High performance in one subject
- Alen Adamov
- Melissa Ah-Yu
- Madison Ali
- Bethany Aldus
- Larissa Athanassiou
- Ali Bai
- Kaday Barrie
- Jenni Bou
- Reynard Brooks
- Chloe Burns
- Sinead Carter
- Debbie Cheah
- Jamie Clohesy
- Christian Ee
- Vendel Fresnido
- Cristina Garrido
- Mahad Hagi
- Pania Hika
- Brooke Johnson
- Binti Kamara
- Elizabeth Kanjer
- Dylan Lawler
- Kai Legenhausen
- Erin McGuffie
- Alex Miers
- Rikka Montaner
- Rabia Naseem
- Nikolas Paletu’a
- Tina Relampagos
- Eilidh Smith
- James Thomas
- Riley Tin
- Cayla White
- Emily Wilson

High performance in two subjects
- Isha Bali
- Aria Cheng
- Vlada Coeva
- Oliver Cucanic
- Jade Cumming
- Regina Lam
- Katelyn Matheson
- Tarryn Mumberson
- Samantha Penny
- Tia Relampagos
- Sophie Tipper

High performance in three subjects
- Runxi Chen
- Hazel Loo
- Daniella Maric
- Emily Scanlan

High performance in four subjects
- Quinn Boukouvalas
- Vish Patel
- Dhanyashree Shanmuganathan
Year 12 Ensemble Performance- June 19, 2015

Roll closing credits:

Written, created by, and starring:
Alen Adamov
Shana Adamov
Chelsea De Pasquale
Chantelle Esto
Tom Geitenbeek
Danni Gilbert
Jordan Harrower
Peyton Harvey
Frances Masi
Jessica May-Bayley
Erin McGuffie
Aysha Nanai-Leifi
Emma Plater
Aleksa Stamenkovic
Nature Stone
Brittany Thame
Kristina Veselova.

Executive Producer: Kelli Simpson
Year 12 Ensemble Performance – Continued

Jessica Sterk (All-round Assistant), Joe (Hanging Lights, staging assistant), Nicki (Budget), Rachel Swaby (Cross-marking/rehearsal assistance/Year 11 Drama/awesomeness), Amee Dunne (Theatre Studies – Drama Teachers unite), Daniella (Lighting), Tain (Audio), VCAL student ‘slaves’ – furniture removal (Jesse, Joshua and Jetzel), Nathan Schnoor (post-production cleaning captain), Brittany and Peyton (choreography), Laura Newman’s Media students for photography.

VIP Audience members: Darryn, Chris, Luci, Susan, Bill, Karen, Nicole, Amee, Bruce, Bronwyn, Rachel, Laura, Stephen O’B.

This has been another successful production from the PCSSC Drama Department.
Year 10 News

Reflecting on Term 2
Youth Mental Health First Aid
The Year 10’s have been lucky enough to take part in the Youth Mental Health First Aid Program, delivered by Mental Health Specialists from Hobsons Bay. The Youth Mental Health First Aid Program took place over three 80 minute sessions spanning weeks 2, 3 & 4 of Term 2. These training sessions gave students the opportunity to learn about a variety of mental illnesses and what types of action a young person can take to support themselves or their peers as well as the ways in which young people can remain mentally healthy.

To follow on from the Youth Mental Health First Aid Program that Hobsons Bay delivered, Advisory classes then took part in a range of wellbeing activities to introduce students to a variety of ways in which they can look after their own wellbeing. These activities involved origami, meditation, yoga, walks, creating art to music and a boxercise session.

Work Experience
The Year 10 Advisory Team would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 260 year 10 students that went out on Work Experience from June 15 – 19. All reports from employers were extremely positive. The students represented the college well and were excellent additions to their places of employment.

The Advisory Teachers look forward to ongoing discussions of the experiences had by the Year 10s at their places of employment.

The Year 10 Advisory Team have a great deal of praise and gratitude to Mary Dimech-Hill and Sher from the Careers Team. They worked exceptionally hard to assist students to find placements when difficulties arose. With so many students out on Work Experience, Mary and her team managed the Work Experience Program exceptionally well and were always in contact with Year 10 Advisory teachers to offer the best support to the students. One of our year 10 students, Ariana Chase, attended Millennium Dance Concepts from 5-7pm last Monday to Thursday. She was assisting the dance students by taking the warm up for the lesson, creating her own choreography to assist with dance routines in Ballet, Jazz and Hip hop. Ariana’s manager was very pleased with her efforts and would love to have her back to assist in teaching and attending classes for her own personal benefit. It was very nice to hear these wonderful things about her while she was on placement.

Exams & Study Skills
Advisory sessions took on a ‘Study Skills’ focus as we prepared our students for their first exam period at Point Cook Senior. For some students, these were their first exams in their schooling experience. Advisory teachers shared a variety of techniques to guide examination preparation through the exploration of study skills. These involved techniques such as study planners, flash cards and mind maps.

Year 10 Exams took place from Tuesday June 9 – 12. Students gained valuable experience through the examination process as examination conditions mirrored the VCAA examination conditions that students will experience in their VCE.
Looking ahead to Term 3:

Career Voyager
Students have all had the opportunity to create their own user account with Career Voyager:  http://www.careervoyage.com.au/au/Login.cshtml

This site will allow for students to individually explore their areas of interest and work and study pathways. Throughout Term 2 and Term 3 Advisory teachers will take students through the process involved in exploring and investigating their pathways and subject options for 2016, 2017 & beyond.

Course Selection
On Wednesday 22 July Point Cook Senior will host a Parent/Guardian Information Evening for parents of students in Year 10. The focus of the evening will be to introduce parents to the course selection process and procedures for pathway and subject selection for Year 11 in 2016.

The Advisory Teachers will explore pathway and subject options with students during the first three weeks of Term 3.

The Year 10s will have their Course Confirmation Day on Wednesday 29 July. This will provide students with the opportunity to finalise their pathway and subject selections for 2016 with their Advisory teachers and their parents/guardians.

Year 10 into 11 Course Selection Forms are due on Friday 31 July. Please contact your child’s Advisory Teacher should you have any queries regarding this process next term.

Anti-Bullying Program
The theme that will be explored throughout Term 3 in Year 10 Advisory classes will focus around Anti-Bullying. This will tie in with the Mental Health & Wellbeing Program students took part in throughout Term 2.

The Year 10 Team wishes all students happy and safe holidays and look forward to an intense, yet enjoyable, Term 3.

SCHOOLMATE APP

The Department of Education and Training has released an app which is designed to help parents better understand the curriculum we use to teach your children every day.

The app, called SchoolMate, is available for free download now in the App Store for iPhones and iPads and in Google Play for Android phones and tablets.

SchoolMate gives you a general overview of the Victorian curriculum in each subject at each year level and:

- Provides you with an overview of what your children are learning in each subject at each year level according to the Victorian curriculum (AusVELS)
- Provides you with tips regarding activities and things you can do at home to help your children in each subject and year level
- Suggests apps, books, events and activities related to each subject area and year level.

Our school, like all other government schools in Victoria, uses AusVELS as the basis for the learning programs we run at school every day.

Our teachers adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of our students, to deliver on our goal to develop confident, active global citizens and to prepare students for the rigours of the VCE and tertiary study.

SchoolMate is designed to give you an overview of what children are expected to learn in Victorian government schools across every subject from Prep to Year 10, and we encourage you to download it.

Folio Preparation for Year 11 & 12 students

Folio Preparation Workshops
Intensive, but enjoyable two and three day folio preparation programs for year 11 & 12 students wishing to enter university. Creative Arts program 29 and 30 June ($185) and Future Design 29, 30 June and 1 July ($195) at the Bendigo Campus of Latrobe University. Accommodation and meals included. On completion you will have the skills required to build an impressive professional portfolio, and be able to approach a university pre-selection interview with confidence. Further information and bookings can be found at www.latrobe.edu.au/art-institute
WRICA Careers Expo 2015: Mary Dimech

On Friday 22 May, the WRICA Careers Expo was held at Werribee Racing Centre.

All Year 10 students from Point Cook Senior attended this excursion and students were able to speak to over 60 different stall holders about employment, apprenticeships, traineeships, TAFE and University courses. This was a valuable excursion and students gained crucial pathway information to support them with their Year 11 course selection occurring in Term 3.
Multicultural Week

On 2 and 3 June, the Year 12 VCAL Personal Development Skills students hosted a Multicultural Week event. On both days there were a great number of staff and students that helped celebrate the cultural diversity of Point Cook Senior Secondary College.

The Year 12 VCAL students worked together over the semester to plan, organise and develop this event. Behind the scenes the students worked in different teams to deliver their sections of Multicultural Week. The teams involved were the budgeters, caterers, safety inspectors, promoters, event organisers and entertainment organisers.

The catering team organised food for Multicultural Week. On the first day there was Asian cultural foods like spring rolls, mini dim sims and fried rice as well as an Australian BBQ which had sausages and burgers.

For the second day of Multicultural Week, it was European culture which offered pizza and pasta.

For the duration of Multicultural Week the entertainment team organised the Theatre to host the entertainment.

On Tuesday we had a CosPlay competition and a manga gallery and on Wednesday we had African drummers and dancers.

The students of the Manga Club dressed up for the contest as characters from anime films. The gallery hosted outstanding artwork of anime characters; showcasing the incredible talent of these students. Thank you to Ms Riley for the time she put into organising the students’ artwork and the CosPlay competition and a special thanks to the students of the Manga Club who got involved.

The African drummers and dancers performed on Wednesday and they were incredible. Their drumming performance brought students and staff into the Theatre and their dancing got the whole crowd up and joining in.

Both days of Multicultural Week were a great success.

By Corey Moors 12J
International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia

WHAT IS IDAHOT?
IDAHOT is an International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia; it’s a worldwide celebration held to support sexual and gender diversities.

IN VolvEMENT:
My group and I organized an entire week to support IDAHOT to raise awareness for sexual gender equality.

ACTIVITIES:
On Monday we made rainbow ribbons and handed out flyers to let the students at the college know what we would be doing. On Thursday we held a Rainbow Cake Bake Off in the Food Technology kitchen. On Friday we asked students to write positive messages about IDAHOT. It was a big success.
Science Fair!

The first Science Fair of 2015 was a great success. There was a lot to look at and enjoy during the Science Fair. There were teacher demonstrations, student demonstrations, student displays and award presentations. The first place award went to the Smell Effects on Taste experiment, second place went to the Ride or Die experiment, third place went to Exercises for Kicking a Footy Ball, and the principal’s choice award went to the Dissolving Candies experiment. Everyone was impressed by all the effort that was put into the projects and were happy to see the interactive demonstrations of experiments done by the pre-service teachers.

The Science Department would like to thank all of the students, parents, staff and community members for coming out and supporting our year 10 students. We hope to see everyone again for the Science Fair in term four.

Collection Notice

- All schools in Australia, including Independent and Catholic schools, will participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability this year.
- The Data Collection is an annual count of the number of students with disability receiving educational adjustments to support their participation in education on the same basis as students without disability.
- All education agencies are now required under the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to provide information on a student’s level of education, disability and level of adjustment to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.* Data will continue to be de-identified prior to its transfer and no student’s identity will be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.
- The collection of this information from states and territories will inform future policy and program planning in relation to students with disability.
- If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Darryn Kruse on 9395 9271 or the Victorian Department of Education and Training Data Collection Hotline on (03) 9651 3621. For questions after 7 August 2015, please call the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on 1300 566 046.
Interschool Sports

It has been a very busy term for Interschool Sports. We have had many teams participate, qualify to the next round and participate at state championships. The Intermediates have participated in badminton, soccer and netball but unfortunately didn’t qualify and the senior students have participated in the same sports as Intermediates as well as basketball and table tennis. The Intermediate students have begun training for their last interschool sports competition which is on Wednesday 2 September.

Outstanding efforts have been displayed by our Senior Boys Basketball A Team who participated in the Victorian School Championships on 29 May. The boys were sensational first defeating St Patricks College then Maribyrnong College in the Grand Final. The Grand Final, which was a very close game, was a tough last game. Feeling fatigued the boys managed to stick together and give it their all to finish the day with only a three point win! The boys will now play in the McDonalds cup which is in August.

Ariana Eurera-Chase represented the College at the State Swimming Championships at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. Ariana has been swimming for quite some time and demonstrates a beautiful technique when in the water. Her event for the championships was the 200m individual medley event where she came 5th out of 8 swimmers. Ariana trains of a morning and afterschool as she is a very dedicated student not only to her swimming but also her schooling. Ariana represented our college as the first Point Cook Senior student to achieve this level in the school’s history. She did this with respect and with an enthusiastic spirit. Well done on a great effort and we hope Ariana can achieve this level again next year.

Cross Country has also been a sensational achievement again this year. The Hobsons Bay Division Competition was on 5 May where we had 8 students compete. We were fortunate enough to win the senior flag for the first time! We had 5 students qualify to participate in the Western Metropolitan Region where we had great results. The girls ran 3km and the boys ran 5km. All students did a great job on the day making it into the Top 20. Special mention goes to Daniel Dunston, who was last year’s State Champion who came third overall on the day. Daniel will now compete in the School Sports Victorian State Championships. We wish him all the best.
Lastly I’ll like to mention our Senior Boys Rugby team who brought home our first GIO Cup Rugby flag. The boys were invited into the competition as a wildcard entry. Our Rugby boys are a very tight group of boys who show exceptional sportsmanship when on and off the field. Mr Hutchison took over the coaching this year and did a great job organising the boys, but the boys are the ones who trained themselves after school and motivated themselves to achieve an excellent result on the day of competition. The boys participated against Victoria University who are always a challenge to beat as well as Harlem Secondary College.

Interschool Sports

Cross Country Continue

Cross Country State Championship

Daniel Dunstone competed in the 8km Under 20s race representing Point Cook Senior in the All Schools Cross Country State Championships at Bundoora Park on Saturday 13 June 2015. Although it was not his best race of the year, due to some minor injuries in the past month or so, he ran well enough to make it into the School Sport Victorian Team. He was 10th overall in the Men’s Under 20s group and 3rd in the schools category, his first All Schools state medal. The Under 20s age group is a mixture of school age and older non-school Under 20s athletes. Daniel will now progress to the National Cross Country Championships to be held at Moonee Valley Race course, Moonee Ponds, on 29 August 2015 and will probably compete in the All Schools relay on the following Monday also. To be selected in the School Sport Victorian Team will be a dream come true for Daniel. He has represented his state many times before in the Athletics Victoria Team but this is the first time on the School Sport Victoria Team.
Athletics Day

On Monday 25 May the college participated in a full school athletics carnival at Newport Athletics Track. It was a cold morning but as the day went on it warmed up as the sun came out. The day ran smoothly with support from all staff, pre service teachers and students. The day was filled with students breaking personal best records, advisory bungee run and mini golf activities and a BBQ organised by the VCAL students. Students put in a great effort to create a fun and colourful atmosphere as they dressed in their individual house colours, had their faces painted and cheered to support the students who participated in athletics events. The year 12 students also made the most of the day as they dressed in costumes to celebrate their last carnival at the college. Congratulations to Iroquois - Green House for accumulating the most points for the day.

The following students gained the most points within their year level:

Individual winners
Year 10 Boys: CARTER Connah
Year 10 Girls: DOUTHAT Maddison
Year 11 Boys: NAKUBUWAI Pio
Year 11 Girls: BOURKE Emily
Year 12 Boys: HADDARA Khaled
Year 12 Girls: JOHNSON Brooke
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.

STUDENT ABSENCES
Whenever students are absent from school parents can notify us via:

- Compass Parent Portal – Log in at http://pointcooksenior.vic.jdlf.com.au/ or visit the Point Cook Senior website for a link. Once logged in parents can approve absences or set up an approval in advance.
- Email – send absence approvals to attendance@pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au (please note this email should come from the parent listed email address nominated on the students enrolment.
- Phone - 9395 5157

Late Arrivals – Students arriving late should sign in at the kiosk in the front office foyer and then head straight to class. This late arrival will still need to be approved by the college or a parent.
Early Leave – Students leaving early will need to sign out through the attendance officer in the LRC. Students are requested to provide written or verbal approval from parent / guardian prior to any early departure.

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 3:
13th July – Term 3 Commence
14th July – Y12 Tertiary info Excursion to Victoria University
20th July – Y11 Fit to Drive Program
22nd July – Y10 into Y11 Parent Information Evening
23rd July – Y12 Melbourne University Biology Excursion
27th - 30th July – Y10 into Y11 Course Counselling
29th July – Y11 into Y12 Parent Information Evening
29th July – Y10 Course Confirmation Day - No Y10 Classes
31st July – Y10 into Y11 Course Selection Forms Due
3rd Aug – Y12 Parents VTAC Info Night
3rd - 6th Aug – Y11 into Y12 Course Counselling
5th Aug – Y9 into Y10 Open Night
7th Aug – Y11 into Y12 Course Selection Forms Due
10th Aug – Y12 VTAC Applications Start
12th Aug – AVID/STAP/AFL Programs Parents Info Evening
14th Aug – Curriculum Day - Students Free
21st Aug – Y12 VTAC Applications Close
31st Aug – Hobsons Bay Division Athletics
2nd Sept – Hobsons Bay Division Intermediate Winter 2 Sports
1st -4th Sept – Y12 Adisory PPP/SNAP/EAP Applications
7th Sept – Advisory SEAS Applications
17th Sept – Western Region Athletics
14th - 18th Sept – Y12 Practice Exams
18th Sept – VTAC/SEAS Applications due