

The Somerville Source

News from Somerville Secondary College



JUNE 26TH 2020: # 03

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Dates To Remember



Monday 13th July

First Day of Term 3. - 8.30 start

Thursday 23rd July

*Course selection information
5:30pm to 8:00pm - further details to be advised due to Covid requirements*

Tuesday 28th July

*Class-free day for Years 8-11
Course selection interviews
further details to be advised due to Covid requirements*

Year 7 and Year 12 not required at school for the day

In the three weeks that all students have been back they have taken the opportunity to reconnect with each other. Students are central to a school and it has certainly been strange to have no students and no staff in the school. The sounds now emanating from classrooms, from outside and from the corridors are lovely to hear. All Year 7 to 10 students have been asked for their views on remote learning and their feelings about returning to school to make sure that we learn from the whole experience of these times.

School Board

I am very pleased to introduce Lisa Roberts as our College School Board President. Lisa is a new parent member of the School Board in 2020 and has enthusiastically taken on this important role for our College. If you would like to make contact with Lisa or send communication to our School Board this can be achieved by emailing the school email address on

somerville.sc@education.vic.gov.au

I sincerely thank Alisa Melhuish, our past School Board President who is remaining on our Board as a parent member. Alisa has made a significant contribution to supporting the work of the school Board and supporting the community of Somerville Secondary College.

I would also like to introduce a new community member to our School Board – Graeme Parrott. Graeme is a member of our local community as well as an active member of and Secretary of the Tyabb, Somerville Rotary Club. We thank Graeme for volunteering his time for supporting our school.

We also have Vicky Martin joining our Board next term as a community member. Vicky is a senior manager at Sealite PTY LTD, an international business that has an office in Somerville.

Sealite is a technology leader in the design and manufacture of marine aids to navigation equipment and monitoring and control systems. Her expertise will be valuable in supporting our college as we build our student capabilities in STEM and Design Technology.

Additional cleaning measures

In light of COVID 19, we have put a number of additional cleaning and sanitising requirements into the school to increase the hygiene levels across all facilities. All teachers have been provided with hand sanitiser dispensers to utilise at each entrance into classrooms and students are asked to sanitise regularly in addition to using soap and water to keep hands clean. While social distancing is difficult in a school, we have reminded students to avoid close contact with others. Our school has negotiated additional cleaners with a schedule day cleaning for high touch surfaces, which has been adapted to meet our school needs. We have 2 cleaners operating during the day for 6 hours and another two for 4 hours after hours.

Bus Passes

The importance of students who are utilising the Department Bus service to have a bus pass has increased due to the COVID 19 virus. At all times we need to know which students are utilising this service and the Department is requiring all students to have an up to date pass to be able to track the students using this service. We do not want to stop or remove students from using the buses due to not having up to date paperwork. Please ensure you have completed the required application form - if you require a new form please visit or ring the general office for information. Students have been reminded of this requirement and have been informed that they will no longer be able to access the bus if they have not completed the application form.

Continued overleaf...

Principal Report Continued...

Reporting for semester one

The Department of Education and Training has adjusted the expectations of Student Reports for Semester 1 in recognition of the transition to remote and flexible learning during Term 2. While our school has continued to deliver its teaching and learning program and monitor the achievement and progress of each student, there have been some changes to our usual curriculum delivery.

All students will receive a written report which will include information on student achievement for each curriculum area taught. However there are some changes to our usual Semester 1 reports.

Student reports for Semester 1 2020 will include:

- a description of the areas of the Victorian Curriculum F-10 taught
- comments regarding student learning achievement, based on the Victorian Curriculum F-10 /VCE for the subject areas taught

We will not be including all aspects of teacher judgements and a five-point scale due to the changes to our program as a result COVID-19. We will report on this progress at the end of the year.

Subject selection and course counselling

For our 2021 course selection process we are engaging in a more in-depth process. A joint discussion between teachers, parents and students will be taking place, looking at the opportunities that are available for students in their subject selections and the suitability of these choices based on areas of interest, academic achievement and engagement.

There will be:

- a new format of Course Selection Handbook distributed to students
- a presentation prepared for students and parents to view
- an information night for parents and students on Thursday 23rd July (2 sessions)
- individual course counselling session for students and parents with teachers for students from Year 8 to 11 to discuss options and future pathways on Tuesday 28th July.

For all students to be able to attend these sessions with the teaching staff, the 28th July will be a day without scheduled classes where all students from year 8 to 11 would come into the college for a course counselling session between 12 and 6pm.

These events will allow the students to think about their subjects related to possible careers and tertiary pathways as well as help them finalising their selection of subjects for 2021.

In the meantime, Year 12 students will be able to enter their application for 2021 courses via VTAC from August. We encourage all students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to discuss their future pathways with their parents ahead of these important decisions to be made. A variety of information on tertiary pathways can be found in the 'Careers' component on the school website and on the VTAC website which can assist the students. <https://www.vtac.edu.au/>

VCAA has now released the dates for the end-of-year examinations and the written examinations are due to start on **Monday 9 November and finish on Wednesday 2 December**, with a full timetable expected to be published before the end of Term 2 holidays. It is anticipated that we will enable concurrently, the students in Years 10 and 11 to be also completing their examinations at this time.

Facilities

Over the past few weeks, through the allocation of some funds from DET for maintenance and upgrades we have been spending some time upgrading some of our facilities which have been inclusive of:

- Fixing leaks in the roof of the double storey building and painting damaged ceilings
- installation of 2 new air conditioner – room 2C and the Hands On Learning Building
- Fencing repairs around the multipurpose pitch
- installation of blinds into 2 classrooms
- installation of a new phone system throughout the college
- upgrading and repairing classrooms

Principal Report Conclusion.

Further works under progress include:

- improved technology in several teaching and learning spaces
- new/ improvements to security cameras
- redevelopment of Building 4 to form a formal senior study space/presentation area and separate admin area
- upgrade of the playground area making improving accessibility for students with disabilities
- New flagpoles on the grass area outside building 6

Thank you

We know that the past ten weeks have been a trying time for students, parents and teachers. Humans by their nature are social beings. The overwhelming feeling around the school over the past few weeks has been of people reconnecting with one another.

I would like to commend the efforts of all areas of our community working together in very strange times to do the best they could under the circumstances, obtaining new skills and opportunities in not always ideal circumstances. The staff, students and families working together have brought about some stronger relationships between home and school.

I would especially like to recognise the hard work and dedication of the staff over this past term- these have been very strange times and the commitment by the staff has been just fantastic.

I am looking forward to what term 3 will bring to our College- I wish our community a safe and enjoyable winter break.

Sarah Burns

College Principal



Attendance Hotline. 59-731098

Somerville Secondary College values our partnership with Parents in providing your children with an education that will help them to move into successful careers and open the door for a range of opportunities. This success is dependent on a consistent attendance record. Missing out on assignments, support, problem solving and important information on subjects impacts on students and often it is difficult to catch up. We urge parents to also support us with attendance by ensuring that if there is reason that keeps your child at home, you contact the absence hotline on 59-731098 or email studentabsence@somerville.vic.edu.au

If the absence is for more than a couple of days, teachers can email work to your child to support them while they are away from school.



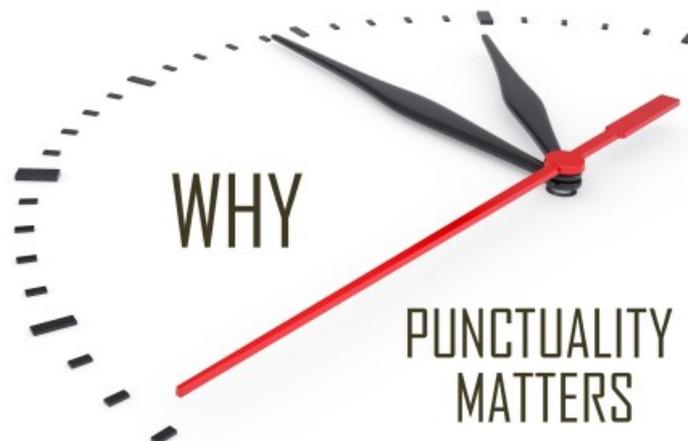
School FEES

If you are unable to pay your College fees in full, we are more than happy to discuss the option of a payment plan. By doing this you can make regular payments (weekly, fortnightly or monthly) at a cost that is affordable to you. It is advisable that you sign up to a payment plan as soon as possible to ensure that your payments can be spread over a longer period of time, making them more affordable to you.

We have various options available:

1. Centrepay—If you receive a family allowance or pension payments from Centrelink every fortnight, you can elect to have an amount deducted from your payment. This payment will come to us every fortnight. There are no fees involved for you.
2. Credit/Debit Card—We will deduct the agreed amount through our EFTPOS facilities here at the College. All you need to do is provide your card number, expiry date and complete the Authority Form and we will do the rest.

If you would like to commence a payment plan, please feel free to call the College and speak with one of our Admin staff who can go through the options with you. Phone: 5973 1000



VCAL Ventures & Career Achievements!

Some great news was shared with our Careers & VET Counsellor, Amy Joseph recently..

Jett Higgins has been accepted into Medic Training for the next Department of Defense intake. This is a rare occurrence with such a high volume of applications from all over Australia. Jett succeeded due to the strong interview skills that he was able to demonstrate to the selection panel.



Emma Edwards has been nominated by Chisholm as their most successful student for the Australian Training awards out of thousands of students. Emma has also demonstrated exceptional skills in her course and was the youngest student ever to complete a diploma in Conservation and Land Management.

All at Somerville Secondary College are very proud of both Jett and Emma - and Ms Joseph has just reached for the tissues!

A comment from our Principal regarding educational pathways and tertiary choices.

Future further tertiary educational pathways. Which is the best pathway?

The question is often asked about which tertiary pathways will increase the employability of our students? Students often assume that a degree or qualification from one facility will lead to better employment outcomes than degrees or qualification from other institutions.

What's the reality? It is vital that students understand that no tertiary organisation can magically deliver a better future to all students. Today's employers are rarely narrow minded and seldom give preference to graduates from any particular institution. They simply want the best person for the job no matter where they have graduated from and will not rule out any particular institutions or give preference to others. Rather than worrying about the pathway or the reputation of an organisation, students should consider every option. Well-informed students know that the most important considerations are the courses themselves. Therefore, students need to carefully investigate course content on organisational websites. Are the subjects interesting? Apart from the subjects themselves, what other features of the course stand out? Are there internships, industry-based units, overseas study tours or other stand-out features that make this course more appealing? The trick is to find the course that best suits each of our students as an individual.

If employers are looking at young graduates, what do they consider? Today's employers continue to look closely at academic commitment. However, apart from academic commitment, employers look closely at all of the following:

- Employment history - Has the student had ongoing part-time work experience? This may be in a local café, a McDonalds, KFC or a local car wash. The type of employment is not the most important factor. What is important however, is having a work history and being able to demonstrate that an employer has judged the student worth employing. Knowing this, I highly recommend that all students consider finding a part-time job. Most students gain enormously from part-time work. They gain increased confidence, time-management skills, social and emotional intelligence as well as a host of other important life skills.
- Personal qualities - Employers are looking for evidence of qualities such as integrity, reliability, self-motivation and honesty. Students can develop many of these through participation in extracurricular activities both in and out of school as well as voluntary work and part-time work.
- Interests - Employers like to hire interesting people because they often have more social skills and can relate to others more easily in the workplace. Once again, all students should seize every opportunity to become involved in extracurricular activities both in and out of school.

In essence, employers are looking at far more than the name of the organisation or pathway an applicant followed. Yes, they are interested in whether an applicant has the demonstrated academic ability, specific career knowledge and skills to succeed. However, they also want a person who is a thinker and a problem-solver, someone who will be an asset to the organisation, someone who will fit in and get along with current employees and clients.

Sarah Burns

College Principal

Letter to all Parents from



Department of Education and Training

Office of the Secretary

2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne Victoria 3002
Telephone: 03 9637 2000
DX210083

Dear parents and carers,

Term 2 in 2020 has been like no other school term in Victoria's history, and so I am writing to thank you for your support.

As you know, this week Grade 3 to Year 10 students joined Prep to Grade 2, VCE and specialist school students in face to face learning. It is great to see our school communities come together again.

In responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic over the past few months, the Department of Education and Training has asked a lot of our teachers and schools, and we have also required your support as parents and carers.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary effort you have all made in working in partnership with your teachers and schools to support your children while they have been learning from home.

When I wrote to you a few months ago as we transitioned to remote and flexible learning, I acknowledged that it would be a challenging time for everyone, but that it was important to work closely together to provide the best possible support for students.

Many of you have since told me that there have been difficult, rewarding and challenging experiences during this unique and uncertain time that we have been through together. I thank you for your support, commitment, patience and perseverance.

But despite difficulties, I've been impressed to hear inspiring stories of education innovation. The innovative and creative approaches adopted during remote and flexible learning have been outstanding, and many schools will bring new approaches with them to on-site schooling.

Many school communities have forged even stronger relationships and partnerships — with families and teachers gaining a greater mutual appreciation of their shared contributions to school education.

Our schools now have a range of precautionary measures to protect the health and safety of your children, your family, teachers and staff, and your local community.

I hope these measures, along with the knowledge that the Victorian Chief Health Officer and Victorian Government have approached the return to on-site schooling with the utmost precaution and careful planning, have helped ease any anxiety about the return to on-site schooling.

The changes at your school are consistent with health advice, including enhanced cleaning in schools and frequent handwashing. Your school has also asked you to practice physical distancing during drop-off and pick-up times.

Your children may be feeling anxious about returning to school. Reassure your child that it's safe for them to go back to school and reinforce what they've been practicing at home around handhygiene

Jenny Atta, Secretary for DEET

and coughing and sneezing. Reassure them that extensive cleaning is being carried out in schools and public transport to keep them safe.

Please remember the health advice: if you or your child is unwell, please stay at home. This is vital to ensuring the effective management of the pandemic.

Information about how to speak to your child about coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found here:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/talkingtoyourchildaboutcoronavirus.aspx>

Visit the Department's website for the latest information about coronavirus (COVID-19) at:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you once again for working with your schools to support your children while they were learning at home and for your patience during the staged return to on-site schooling.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Atta
Secretary
Department of Education and Training

Lunchtime Basketball with Kevin

Over the past few weeks we have been lucky enough to have a local Basketball coach Kevin Benn running Basketball at lunchtime once a week for interested students. Kevin will be back throughout term 3 running sessions for anyone who is keen on Tuesday lunchtimes. We can have a maximum of 30 students participate in the sessions, so anyone can sign up however it will be on a first in best dressed basis.

Students who wish to join in can express their interest to Mrs Wilson and/or Miss Bentley and need to commit to attending weekly. We look forward to seeing students get involved and are looking to move into term 4 offering Basketball Boot camp opportunities for the students who join in.

Kate Wilson

Science / Health & PE





Moonlit Sanctuary

the best way to see Aussie animals

GO WILD THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT MOONLIT SANCTUARY KEEPER CLUB

Kids enjoy environmental activities, animal encounters and native animal care. Day includes: interactions with dingo, python, off-limits animals, feeding animals and food prep, animal enrichment activities. Learn about our animals, their conservation and the environment. For ages 7-14 years.

Winter 2020 school holiday dates:

Week 1: Monday, June 29th – Friday, July 3rd from 10am-3pm

Week 2: Monday, July 6th – Friday, July 10th from 10am-3pm

Cost: \$90.00 per day, or \$250 for 3 days (pro rata for additional days).

Small groups of 10 children per day.

Bookings essential as spaces are limited

Dress for the weather, wear closed-toe shoes and remember your hat or raincoat. BYO lunch or purchase at the café.

Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Park

550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale

Phone 5978 7935

www.moonlitsanctuary.com.au

Open daily between 10am and 5pm. Keeper Club runs from 10am-3pm.



Creating Colourful, Comfortable Cushions!

The Assessment task for Textiles was to create a cushion that was personalized in its decoration, colour and texture. Some students had never operated a sewing machine before.

Year 7 Students must have used their listening skills because no one was punctured or attached their cushion to their uniform!

By the happy looks on their faces, these cushions will be around for ever.

Well done to Year 7 for successfully researching, designing, manufacturing and enjoying their cushions!



By The Book!

Back to something resembling normality!

From what I can tell from where I sit, it looks like our students missed the routine of classwork and interacting with teachers and friends.

It did afford an opportunity for many to re-discover recreational reading. Our hectic world became a little more peaceful. Less to and fro.

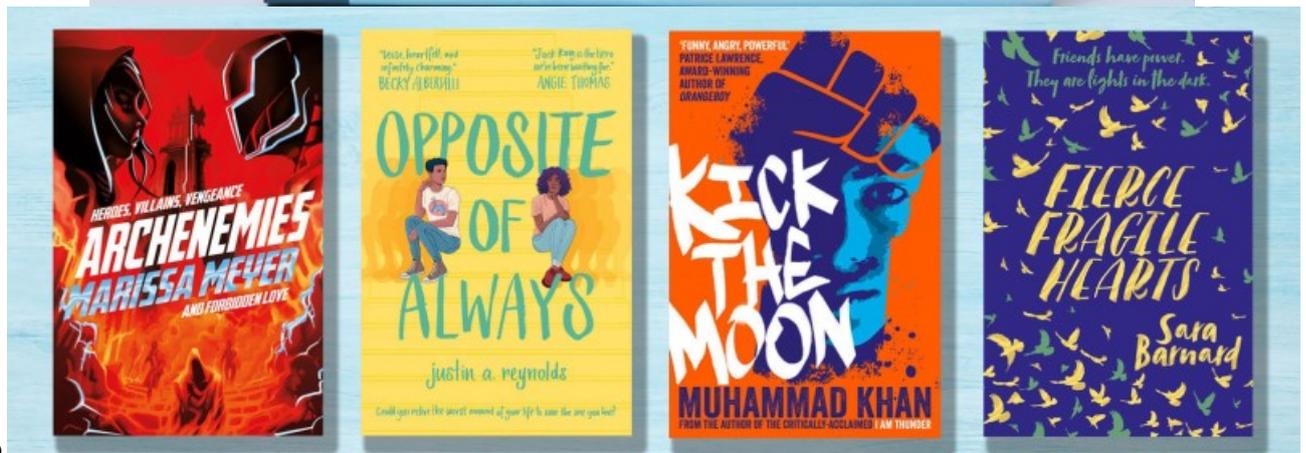
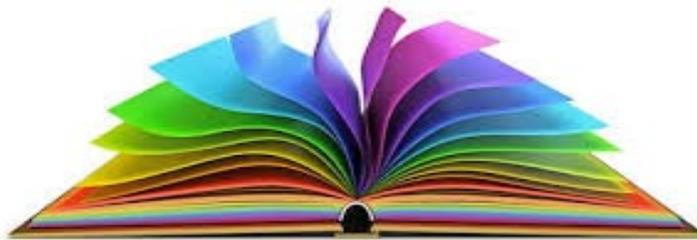
So everyone is back now and we are nearly at the end of Term 2.

Our Library is now situated in 4C and that means nearly 24 thousand books had to be moved. The collection has been dusted and scrutinized to ensure that no old or non-relevant teaching texts are still on the shelves. Hopefully we will have managed to put everything back where it belongs by the time Term 3 starts.

“Old covers can hold a new story for the next reader.”

Sue Curran

Library Manager





Health & Wellbeing week has been instrumental in supporting with Remote Learning at Home.

Their valuable advice for regular breaks from your computer screens and hydrating - taking a walk or switching off . Knowing when to walk away from a frustrating problem.

The Wellbeing office is always on hand for advice and support.

We wish all students a safe and happy Term 2 holiday break..

The team looks forward to seeing you all again soon!



10 Ways to Boost Your Energy Instantly

1. Stay Hydrated

Being dehydrated can lead to fatigue, crankiness, and foginess



2. Walk Around the Block

Even a short walk can get your endorphins flowing



3. Spend time in the Sun

A few minutes in the light can brighten your day



4. Sip Tea

For energy without a crash



5. Eat More Mini Meals

Eating good food frequently keeps your energy up



6. Take a Tech Break

A few minutes away from the gadgets can give you a boost



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS



Moonlit Sanctuary KEEPER CLUB

Go wild these school holidays!

If you have some junior wildlife lovers looking for fun over the holidays, check out our Keepers Club holiday program.

In a day full of fun hands-on activities, they will get up close to many animals including dingos and pythons and learn how their keepers work to keep them happy and healthy.

Places are limited so book early and make your junior keeper's day!

For ages 7-14. Cost: \$90



moonlitsanctuary.com.au | t. 5978 7935 | e. bookings@moonlit-sanctuary.com



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