



## Term 2 CALENDAR

Friday 12th May  
Eureka Girls Footy

Wednesday 17th May  
PL Day (Student Free)

Friday 19th May  
GAT Assembly

Tuesday 23rd May  
Immunisation -Year 7 students

Wednesday 24th May  
Eureka Senior Sport

Thursday 25th May  
Year 7-8 Exam Assembly  
Year 9-10 Exam Assembly

Friday 2nd June  
SLG Fundraiser  
Themed Casual (Wear GREEN)

## Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards the above activities only.

You require a valid Veterans Affairs Gold Card or eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) or Temporary foster parent.

Secondary School Student rate: \$225 per year.

Closing date for CSEF funding

**30th June, 2017**

IF YOU HAVEN'T APPLIED YET, PLEASE COME INTO  
THE ADMIN OFFICE AND SPEAK WITH STAFF.

## Woodmans Hill Campus Principal Report

### Simon Haber on Leave

Simon Haber is taking Long Service Leave for the first 7 weeks of Term 2. I will be replacing him for this time.

### NAPLAN 9th May – 11th May

All year 7 & 9 students have recently undertaken the NAPLAN testing at school. Students are tested in a range of areas including Reading Comprehension, Numeracy and Language Conventions. Well done to all students who completed these tests and gave their very best effort.

### Increased Funding for Woodmans Hill and Ballarat Secondary College

Our College Principal and Local Members Sharon Knight and Geoff Howard had the pleasure of announcing another round of funding for both campuses of Ballarat Secondary College totalling \$ 9 million dollars. Of that \$3 million has been designated for the Woodmans Hill Campus. What this will enable is a complete overhaul of all learning areas for future students at our school! We are excited about the confidence placed in our school by the State Government.

### VCE Study Centre

Demolition work has recently begun on our VCE Study Centre and the building program is now working quickly. We are hopeful that our 2017 Year 12 students will be able to gain some use of this new learning space before they finish later in the year.

### Professional Learning Day for Staff on Wednesday 17th May is Student Free Day

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, all staff will continue our work on improving our teaching practice through a structured day of professional learning.

Parents please note that this means a student free day. Please ensure that you make alternative supervision arrangements for your children on this day.

Shannon Turnbull

Acting Principal



To all of our Woodman's Hill Community Mums

# Building Upgrade Funding Announcement



Recently we were visited by our Local State Government representative Geoff Howard.

During his visit Geoff informed us that a further \$3 million has been allocated by the State Government to upgrade building and facilities at Woodmans Hill.

This brings the total amount of funding allocated to Woodmans Hill to upgrade our building and facilities to \$6 million.

Work has commenced on the first stage of the building upgrade with the planned VCE centre to be completed in term four of this year.

The next stage of works will see a new Auditorium for Performing Arts, Canteen, Science rooms, and Technology centre.

It is hoped the second stage of building works will commence at the end of the year.

This is fantastic news for our school community and means that we will be able provide a learning environment that supports learning and teaching comparable to other schools across the state.

The announcement shows the confidence being shown in the College in terms of the current direction and into the future as a Year 7 -12 school.

We look forward to working with parents to ensure all students can take advantage of our upgraded facilities and have great learning outcomes.

Exciting times ahead for our school community as we build on our values of determination, respect and excellence.

Rick Gervasoni

**College Principal**

# Uniform Policy and Expectations

The weather has been getting colder in recent times and this has led to students wishing to rug up to protect themselves from the cold weather.

**We consider uniform a critical and important part of our school culture.**

**Our uniform policy and expectations are given to every parent upon enrolment.**

**Upon choosing to enrol your child at Woodmans Hill, you are also choosing to adhere to our uniform policy.**

For this reason, we are asking for your support to ensure that your child is dressed appropriately and follows the uniform policy and expectations at all times.

Please note the following, which are the focus at present.

## **DRESS/WINTER SKIRT LENGTH**

Our uniform policy has recently been updated to address the issue of **dress length**.

The school policy states:

**“All dresses (including summer dress and winter skirt) must be no higher than the knee”**

The families of girls who have dresses of an inappropriate length will be notified in the next week via letter and asked to address the length of the uniform.

## **WINTER WARMTH**

Cold weather is no excuse to wear non-uniform items. We understand that Ballarat is a cold place during winter, however there are many acceptable options available to students or families.

- Purchase the school blazer (with the new uniform) to provide another layer of warmth.
- Purchase thermal underwear for your child.
- Wear long sleeve t-shirts hidden under school polos (old uniform) or shirts (new uniform).
- Purchase fleece lined black tights for girls for wear under the winter skirt.

It is unacceptable to wear **hoodies** under uniform or any other item that is visible and that is non-uniform.

It is unacceptable to wear coats or jackets that are not OFFICIAL school uniform.

## **SOCKS**

- With the NEW school uniform, socks must be WHITE (for girls and boys) or GREY (for boys).
- With the OLD uniform, socks must be WHITE ONLY.
- No branded socks are acceptable.

Over the next few weeks all families of students who present to school out of uniform will receive letters notifying you of this fact. It is expected that these issues with uniform are resolved as soon as possible.

If there is an issue with your child's uniform on any given day please send them with a note or contact the school so that we can provide them with a uniform pass for the day and provide them with loan uniform.

As always, there is support available for families experiencing severe financial hardship. If you need assistance please contact Jenny Middlin at the general office.

Please support us to ensure that we can be proud of our students and our uniforms.

**3.20pm - 4.20pm**



**In the Library**

**All students welcome**

# Study Club

## Holiday study classes

During the previous holidays we were excited to hold our first Study classes, which we offered to 7 different VCE subjects. This allowed students to attend school in a relaxed atmosphere to expand their learning. Classes did a variety of things, some classes looked at the upcoming assessments while other revised previously learnt material. Students were supplied lunch during this time.

The days were very successful with many staff and students commenting on its value. With high student attendance, we look to offering more events like this to support our students in achieving their best possible results.



Well done to all the students who took advantage of this opportunity and thank you to all the staff who ran classes during the holidays.

**Steven Serrals**  
**Acting Assistant Principal**

# Student Leadership Group

We are proud to unveil our NEW Student Leadership Group for 2017. These students will work, over the course of the year to make our school a better place.

In term 2 our focus is on **the environment** and in Term 3 we have decided to focus on **health and safety**.

All students are encouraged to seek out their Year Level Student Leaders and provide them with feedback and advice about ways we could grow and improve our school for staff, students and parents.

## Year 7



**Pippa Crawford**



**Alysia Catania**



**Charlie Farrell**



**Orlando Dabner**

## Year 8



**Caitlin Hillier**



**Logan Hedger**



**Lachlan Dobbie**



**Emma Van Egmond**

## Year 9



**Kobi Cheeseman**



**Amy Triance**



**Kathrine Worland**



**Rose Beck**

## Year 10



**Jacqui Burch**



**Nick Ralston**



**Saffron Lockwood**



**Zachary Williams**

## VCE



**Gabriella Dumesny**



**Harry O'Hagan**



**Molly Binks**



**Zachary McCarthy**



## AWARD FOR ZACHARY

One of our Vice-Captains, Zachary McCarthy was recently awarded a **2017 Moorabool Youth Award** in the **Voluntary Contribution category**. Zach was nominated by those in his local community of Gordon for his work with the local CFA as well as fundraising to attend and work within remote communities of Timor-Leste. He will visit

## SHOUT!

Last week, two students were welcomed into the Shout Magazine team at The Ballarat Courier. Amy McDonald from Year 9 and Caitlin Raabe from Year 10 will contribute to a magazine that will be distributed with the Courier which reaches over 20,000 people.

They get the opportunity to learn from the journalists and develop their writing as well as work with students from a range of Ballarat schools.



## DONATIONS NEEDED - Second Hand Uniform

With the switch to the NEW Woodmans Hill uniform we are asking for any **donations of the OLD BALLARAT SECONDARY COLLEGE** uniform to the office so that we can utilise this with families in need.

Please drop any CLEAN, OLD uniform to the General Office.



## Fidget Spinners

**Please note that fidget spinners are not allowed at school. They are creating a distraction for students and having a negative impact on learning.**

**Unless a student has a current medical certificate explaining a medical reason for their use.**



# Mid-Year Exams

Students of years 7-11

will undertake their Mid-Year Written Examinations  
in weeks 8 & 9 in all subject areas.

Provisions and supports will be put in place for students with disabilities whom already receive assistance within their learning program at school. All students will be given a hard-copy of the Exam Timetable at the upcoming exam assemblies. The timetable will also be published in the next newsletter and on the College website.

There will be an important Exam Assembly for all VCE students and students undertaking a VCE Unit 1 study as part of the Accelerated Learning Program on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Students will receive information and advice about VCE Exam rules and regulations, and individual Exam Timetables will be distributed.

Performance in the exams will contribute to the student's final outcome in each subject and it is possible for a student to improve previously achieved outcomes. Exam results will be available in Semester One Reports and also through exam feedback provided during the week following exams.

**Reminder to VCE Students:-** Unit 1 studies conclude at the end of week 9 (Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June) which is only 5 weeks away! It will also be vital for students to make time to study and prepare for their exams so that they can achieve their personal best. There will be time during classes leading up to the exams, that will also be focused on revision of coursework and exam preparation.

Parents/carers can support their child by ensuring that they have a suitable place to study, are maintaining a good nutritional intake, are getting adequate sleep (8 hours per night), as well as balancing their leisure (and work) activities.

We encourage students to be involved in extra-curricular, leisure and social activities outside of school and this also includes seeking employment opportunities that will give students' access to unique learning experiences in the community, while developing life skills and knowledge.

Students undertaking their senior school program **are required to attend more than 85%** of classes and should be **regularly completing homework and home-study**, for successful completion.

Students are also experiencing higher academic demands and homework, and also need to make regular time to study for assessment tasks and exams. Students are still transitioning to this high level of schooling which we acknowledge in these times, is a real challenge and balancing act.

We are finding that some students are currently struggling to balance school and part-time/casual employment with all of their other activities. Some students are coming to school feeling too tired and therefore unprepared for learning (physical and mentally). Like all of us, students need to get adequate rest and nutrition to function effectively and sustain their momentum.

Can we please ask parents/carers and employers to support our students to not take on too many hours in their place of employment (maximum of 10 hours recommended) and to assist and encourage students to prioritise their time and commit to focussing on achieving successful educational outcomes.

# General Achievement Test (GAT)

The GAT (General Achievement Test) is a 3 hour test of general knowledge and skills for all students completing any Unit 3 or 4 subjects as part of a scored VCE (**this will apply to the Year 11 students completing Unit 3/4 subjects, and some 2<sup>nd</sup> Year VET students**). It is an external exam which is set by the VCAA. It is an essential part of the VCE assessment process and plays a very important part in determining your child's final assessment for the VCE. The GAT takes place on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June from 10.00am to 1.15pm**. Being an external exam, the GAT cannot be rescheduled for another time, and it is most important that students attend and sit the exam. Students who are required to sit the GAT have been informed and have recently been given a GAT pamphlet which explains all they need to know about this exam, and they are strongly encouraged to read this carefully.

Along with an explanation of why and how the GAT is used by the VCAA, the GAT pamphlet also outlines all of the exam rules, and it is most important that students are fully aware of these and the consequences of breaching these rules. The GAT is supervised externally, students need to be aware that the consequences for breaching any of the exam rules are serious, and could result in cancellation of all of the students' grades and other assessments, and in some cases they will be required to attend a hearing in front of a review committee in Melbourne.

**One rule in particular that we would like to point out is the fact that students are not allowed to take any kind of electronic device into the exam.** This includes mp3 players and mobile phones as well as smart watches and fitness tracker bands. The consequences of being caught with a mobile phone in the exam room are serious, and involve the phone being confiscated and sent to the VCAA to be analysed. The phone is likely to be held for 3 months, where the SIM card will be downloaded and analysed.



It is vital that students are aware of what they are allowed to bring in to the GAT, and what they are not allowed to bring. This is clearly outlined in the GAT pamphlet.

Students **must be at school at least 30 minutes before the GAT**. It is most important to ensure that they are not late to an exam, as it is possible that they will not be allowed to enter the exam room after a certain time. College policy states that students must remain for the entire exam; they will not be permitted to leave early.

We strongly encourage students to have a healthy breakfast before the GAT, as they will be sitting in the exam room for 3 hours. They should also bring a clear bottle of water (no label). It is important for students to be hydrated and well-nourished in order to concentrate and perform at their best.

Your encouragement and support will help your child to perform to the best of their ability. Being fully prepared for exams will ensure that they will be able to reach their maximum potential and allow them the greatest options to pursue their future pathway.

If you would like any more information about the GAT, or would like to see a copy of the GAT pamphlet, you can access this online at <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vce/exams/gat/index.aspx>

***Rebecca Dawes, Year 12 Exam Co-ordinator***

# Introduction to our Careers Website

We have a school Careers website which we will be making use of.

You can find the Careers Portal on the school's website - [www.woodmanshill.net.au](http://www.woodmanshill.net.au) in the Student area.

Alternatively you can go to [www.woodmanshillcareers.com](http://www.woodmanshillcareers.com)

The site contains a huge amount of information and should be your first stop when you are looking for information on anything job, careers, university and TAFE related (and there is so much more). I'll also communicate with you via the site as well. It has a student login area that allows you to do a number of things once you have created an account.

To get an idea of what is there and what you can do, I want you to take a bit of a tour by doing the following:

1. Go to [www.woodmanshill.net.au](http://www.woodmanshill.net.au) Go to the Careers Portal under the Students tab. On the "Home Page" you will see a few things to note:
  - a) Video - There is a careers related video that will change from time to time. Some are quite humorous, some interesting, others just informative, so remember to periodically check the website to watch them.
  - b) The Career and Course Finder - The ability to search for courses (University, TAFE, and Private Providers), scholarships and job information.
  - c) The Message Board - I will post messages and notices here, so keep an eye on this.
2. Go to the "Calendar of Events" in the "Important Information" menu. Here you will find a calendar for the year. We will post important dates and events here. If you want to receive alerts or reminders of upcoming events, just enter your name and email address.
3. The "Careers Newsletter" under the "Important Information" menu. You can subscribe to receive a Careers Newsletter at least twice each term. These will have lots of relevant information, important dates and so on. If you wish to receive them, just enter your name and email address.
4. Go to the "Workplace Learning" menu. Here you will see a number of pages you can go to, including Work Experience and Work Placement. There is also a page where you can download the documents you will need in order to go on Work Experience.

Now take 10 minutes to have a look around the site.



# Introduction to our Careers Website

Continued .....

## CREATE AN ACCOUNT

(We will also be conducting a lesson on this at school, so don't stress if you can't do it).

Once you do this, you will have this account until you leave school.

- a. Go to the "For Students" menu, and then down to "Help Videos" and watch as required (make sure you have headphones).
- b. Now click on the "Students' Secure Area" in the "For Students" menu - this will open a page where you can create your account (and in future, it is where you will login to your account).
- c. Click on the "Registration" tab and enter your details:

Your First Name and Last Name

- ◆ Your email address - **NOTE:** you can use any email address you like; it doesn't have to be your school one, (it also becomes your login username).
- ◆ Create a Password for yourself (you'll need to type it in twice)
- ◆ Select which year you are currently in

- d. Click the "Register" button - your account is now created and you can login - **BIG NOTE:** Please write down your username and password now (it will be displayed on this page). Save it somewhere safe.
- e. Now go back to the Student Login page again and log in with your details. Have a look at the various things that you can do.

List 6 things you can do in the student area:

---

---

---

---

---

---



[www.woodmanshillcareers.com](http://www.woodmanshillcareers.com)

I've put together a new website.

VTAC/UAC/QTAC

VET

It's a "One Stop Shop" for everything you need with Career Planning and help.

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

WORK EXPERIENCE

DO AN INTERESTS TEST

FIND A JOB

CHOOSE A UNIVERSITY

GAP YEAR

CREATE A RESUME

DEFENCE CAREERS

YOUTH ALLOWANCE

**CHECK IT OUT NOW!**

*Ms Carolyn Gregg*

Careers Adviser



**THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT**

*I came across this notice in a school newsletter recently and love it! (Ms O'Shea)*

*Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. Investing uninterrupted time in their child AND partnering with their child's school are two of the most important things they can do:*

Stop what you're doing and give 100% attention to each of your children for at least 8 minutes a day. Small emotional investments like one-on-one, quality time now will help ensure your kids grow up feeling safe, valued and listened to.

Time is precious...but not as precious as your children. That's why it's so important to set aside at least 8 minutes every day of distraction-free time to engage with each of your kids, one on one, without interruptions. Put down your phone, iPad or laptop and take the time to really BE with them - exchanging stories, asking and answering questions, sharing a laugh...whatever works best!

Your child will feel more listened to, valued, safer and happier. Studies show that kids who receive this kind of attention do better at school, with greater language skills and higher self-confidence. With benefits like these, there's no better way to spend 8 minutes a day.

**ACTIONS:**

- Sit down with your child for at least 1 meal every day.
- Read a book together before bed or tell a story of your own.
- Ask questions about your child's life that need more than a one-word answer.
- For older kids, discuss a news item they might be interested in.

