Term 3 - 2016:
Issue 23 - 5th August

AUGUST:

Mon 8:  -Current Year 10 (2016) - Course Counselling Day
Wed 10:  Current Yr 9 2016 Course Counselling Day
Mon 15 - Fri 19: Yr 9 Connect City Experience

In this Issue:

- Principal’s Report including proposed new uniform details
- Yr 7 -10 Semester Results explained
- Code Club
- Smart Generation
- Fun Science Yr 7 16B

Principal’s Report

Accessing Excellence:
Following on from the work our Domain Leaders and teachers conducted throughout Semester One with Nick Smith our Pathways Leader, and Estelle Alder our Assistant Principal and Teaching and learning Leader, students have begun to plan their course selections. Using their student learning assessment data from Semester One, students have been mapping their senior pathway and course.

Whilst we understand our students have many interests and ambitions, it is vital to each and every student’s success that they select a pathway and course that they can achieve their best in.

Course selection began on Friday this week, and it has been a pleasure to see and hear the conversations about learning and future options taking place.

Literacy and Numeracy:

Being new to the College, it has been a high priority to review and reflect our student achievement in Literacy and Numeracy. These areas are a key priority within the Education Department, and I have been discussing these areas with our teaching staff and students over the past three terms to develop and implement programs that will support our student’s achievement in future years.

Our Literacy coordinator and Numeracy coordinator supported by our teaching staff have been out to see best practice models in other schools, as well as models within our Emerald District Primary schools.

As Principal I am also part of a FISO network group (framework for Improving Student Outcomes) and together with our College staff we are planning some very exciting and innovative processes for our students for 2017 onwards within Literacy and Numeracy.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics):

Last term I met with Simon Birmingham the Federal Minister for Education, Jason Wood and Brad Battin to discuss the much needed funding for our science and Maths facilities.

This week I met again with Brad Battin and Nick Wakeling the Shadow Minister for Education to continue the discussions to improve the facilities for our students. We are planning on redeveloping our E and G Block to develop a state-of-the-art, flexible STEM facility that will allow students to engage with Science and Mathematics as well as new and emerging technologies.

Once established, this facility would be accessible to our feeder primary schools, and community, and would provide benefits to students studying STEM subjects. This would also enhance our partnerships with Mt Burnett Observatory, Melbourne University and create further opportunities.
for our students to see Mathematics and Science in the real world. As educators, we also believe it will improve student learning outcomes and allow us to better deliver the new Victorian Curriculum in order for our students to become engaged in the global economy.

**Proposed New Uniform:**
The move to a new uniform has been quite a topic of discussion. One main consideration in developing and implementing any change was the accessibility and cost to families, especially considering our 1:1 program.

At School Council this week we discussed the impact of change to our families, and it was felt that options such as shirts or pants that can be purchased at retail stores at a much lower cost was a positive move. The student representatives on School Council also added their thoughts about the current uniform, and the positive changes they believe they will see in the new uniform and the school.

Following department guidelines there will be a three year phase in, which means our current students and families do not have to purchase the new uniform until 2020.

The uniform is on display in the foyer of the College, and we are seeking feedback in some of the decision making processes especially around the colour of the pants and shorts.

Here is a link below for families to access the survey, 
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESC_proposed_new_uniform

Paper copies are also available at the College.

Please Note: The summer boys and girls shirts will have the College logo on however, the boys and girls winter shirts will be plain to enable families to purchase them from the uniform shop or any other retail shop.

**Jodie Doble**
Principal
In the semester report students will receive a Satisfactory progress or Unsatisfactory Progress (S or N) grade for each subject. To receive a Satisfactory progress grade (S) students must pass all of their CATs and Work Requirements which appear on the semester report. If a student does not submit all of their CATs or Work Requirements, or receives an unsatisfactory grade (E, UG, NS) then an Unsatisfactory progress grade (N) will be given. Students will be given the opportunity to improve their work if they receive an unsatisfactory grade of E or UG. See the Assessment Scales below.

E, UG, NS = N (Unsatisfactory progress)

A+ - D = S (Satisfactory Progress)

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CODE CLUB

<learn how to code>

<Monday lunchtime><Library>

<input type="fun"/>

<span>teach yourself</span><span>teach your friends</span>

Come to Code Club and learn or improve your coding skills. From Scratch, to HTML to Python, come along to Code Club!
Emerald Secondary College is taking part in a joint initiative with Deakin University and Cardinia Shire Council around the issue of alcohol awareness. The project titled ‘The Smart Generation’ tackles the issues around teenage drinking. Teenage drinking is a serious problem that has harmful outcomes for the individual, the family, and the community. To address this issue, our school is taking part in a project to prevent adolescent alcohol use. Students in Year 10 and Year 8 will be undertaking some lessons through their homegroups in the coming weeks and this is also following on from the College’s promotion of the ‘Drugs Alcohol & You’ community information night.

Parents of Year 8 and 10 parents can also expect to hear about the project through mail-outs and students’ homework activities. We encourage you to be as involved as possible, and to get started you can:

1. Talk to your child about alcohol use and discuss your expectation that they do not drink alcohol before age 18.
2. Consider setting a rule that your child does not drink alcohol at home or elsewhere, and discuss the consequences of breaking the rule.

For more information visit [www.smartgeneration.org.au](http://www.smartgeneration.org.au).

**Alcohol Guidelines and Legislation**

The [National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au) recommend that children aged under 18 years do not drink alcohol.

In Victoria, [Secondary Supply Legislation](https://www.lor.vic.gov.au) makes it illegal to supply alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 without written or verbal permission from their parents. This legislation is also referred to as the [Teen Drinking Law](https://www.deakin.edu.au).
Fun Science: Year 7(16B) Egg Drop Project

**Goal:** Design and build a system that will protect an egg from a 2 metre drop. Eggs that smash or crack fail the test while eggs that survive without a scratch pass!

The class worked in a team to perform the experiment learning about **mass**, **air resistance** and **gravity** while having the time of their life!