

## From the Principal's Desk

It is difficult to believe that we are at the end of the first term. Students have settled into their new environment really well and I have only had extremely positive reports from teachers about the manner in which students have begun their studies. Over the past two weeks I have been pleased to speak to many parents who are thrilled with the way in which their child has committed themselves to their VCE or VCAL program. Indeed many parents have commented that they have observed a 360° turnaround in their son's or daughter's attitude and approach to their education compared with the last year or two.



This very positive feedback certainly emphasizes the point that finding the right school at the right time is incredibly important. To find a school where you can be yourself, feel safe, supported, accepted and academically challenged to do your best is education's holy grail. I look forward to following the growth and development of every student throughout their time with us.

## School Council

The School Council for this year has been finalized. Congratulations to all councilors, in particular those that are joining us for the first time.

## Parent Representatives

Sara Berson  
Carolyn Blackburn  
Anna Civitico  
Pat O'Leary  
Anita Olshina  
Rachel Robinson

## Community Representatives

Talia Alton  
Oriel Flewell-Smith  
Amanda Couchman (Student)  
Alice Lamont (Student)

## DET Representatives

Michael O'Brien (Principal and Executive Officer)  
Emily Barnes  
Danni Bunker  
Rob Lewkowicz  
Ian Penhalluriack

## VCE Season of Excellence 2016

### Top Arts

Friday 11 March to Sunday 10 July at the Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia

On Thursday 11 March I was honoured to attend the opening of Top Arts at the NGV Ian Potter Gallery. Once again the standard of this year's work is quite staggering with students having explored a range of techniques to produce their final pieces.

To have your work selected for the exhibition is quite an accomplishment with over 2000 submissions being received. Forty two students made it through to the exhibition. Successful students must have received an A or A+ grade for the folio component of their study. Consideration is also given to how the work and folio might reflect VCAA standards. For 2015 students, war, conflict, terror and domestic violence emerged as common themes as well as immersion, emergence and transformation in numerous forms. Exploration of identity and portraiture dominated, along with insightful observations of the natural world and thoughtful meditation on the human condition.



*First picture: Inez with her Studio Arts teacher, Neil*

*Second picture: Lauren Fung's series of photographs*

### *Top Designs*

Friday 18 March to Sunday 10 July at the Melbourne Museum, Carlton

Top Designs opened on Thursday 17 March at the Melbourne Museum. This year more than 1500 applications were submitted from students in six VCE studies-Food and Technology, Media, Product Design and Technology, Systems Engineering, VET Interactive Digital Media and Visual Communication Design. Ninety students were successful in having their work exhibited.



*Lauren pictured with her teacher, Helen.*



*Lauren's garment*

Lauren Hart-McKinnon was chosen as one of these students and had her garment, Transcendence, exhibited. The garment was made of cotton, chiffon and polyester. Lauren's brief stated, "My client asked me to create a versatile, three-piece outfit that channeled androgyny, minimalism and texture. My client also asked me to consider sustainability and for the work to be solely my

intellectual property. The garments feature French seams, hand embroidery and dyeing".

Please check this website for viewing and performance details

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/excellenceawards/seasonofexcellence/index.aspx>

### SRC School Captains

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as SRC captains for this year.

Alice Lamont (Year 12)

Caitlin Di Benedetto (Year 12)

Amanda Couchman (Year 12)

Sasha Kitchen-Nolan (Year 11)

Jackson Simpson Nicholson (Year 11)

### Elevate Workshops

Student and parents had the opportunity to participate in two workshops throughout the term. The student workshops concentrated on Study Skills and the parent workshop covered how parents can best support their child during the final years of schooling.

Materials related to the presentations may be accessed at:

<https://au.elevateeducation.com>

User name: adam.f

Password: pacco

*Michael O'Brien*

*Principal*

### **Assistant Principal's News**

At Swinburne Senior Secondary College we have high expectations of our students' engagement, attendance and learning.

Parent / Student / Teacher conferences were held on Wednesday 16 and 23 March and were well attended. Just over 70% of families attended over these two sessions. Thank you to all the parents or guardians who attended. I'm sure that your son or daughter appreciates your support.

When a student is away from school or a class, parents or guardians should log onto the Compass Portal and enter a parent approved absence at the beginning of the day or before the class begins. If your child is marked absent for that class a SMS message will be sent to you in the morning only. Students will be expected to make up for absences and the work they have missed.

I would like to encourage all parents to login to the Compass Portal weekly, so they can be up to date with their child's attendance and any other new events which are happening at the college.

It will be a busy 2<sup>nd</sup> term as we have a number of events coming up at Swinburne Senior Secondary College. The college play will open on 18 May and mid-year practice exams for students undertaking any of the Unit 3/4 English studies on 6 June. The GAT will be held for all students undertaking any VCE Unit 3/4 study on the 7 June.

The next interim reporting cycle will be published on April 27. Any queries about interim reports should be directed to your child's mentor teacher.

Next Term begins on Monday 11 April.

*Robert Lewkowicz*  
*Assistant Principal*

### **From the Year 12 Manager's Office**

The first term has flown by. Year 12 students should have completed their first SACs in most of their subjects and have developed a clear understanding of what is required for personal success in each of their subjects.

The demands of Year 12 can be very stressful for students. I would like all Year 12 students to reflect on their first term; their successes and mistakes. It is very important for Year 12s to make sure that they reflect on their progress regularly throughout the rest of year. If you do not reflect, you cannot identify what you need to do to improve your skills.

I am very happy with the behaviour of our Year 12 students so far in 2016. Each student has shown themselves to be honest, responsible and respectful in everything they do. This forms the foundation of Swinburne's mature learning environment and it is great to see the students take on an active role in their own learning.

I would like to wish all Year 12 students a safe and happy Easter break. While it should be a time for you to relax and re-energise for Term 2, please use your time wisely to set yourself up by preparing for your classes. This may include:

1. Completing any holiday homework set by your teachers.
2. Reading any texts or chapters that you will be studying in Term 2.
3. Checking the VCAA Study Designs for your subjects and see what skills you will be developing.
4. Catching up on any missed coursework from Term 1.
5. Consolidating your notes from any of the Outcomes you have covered in Term 1.

Have a great break and we'll see you back at school next term.

*Joel Guye*  
*Year 12 Manager*

### **Parent Information Evening: Monday 18 April 6:30-8 pm I CAN Network-helping students to build confidence, resilience and networks**

Swinburne Senior Secondary College has recently begun work with the I CAN Network. The I CAN network was recommended to us through a current parent at the College who has been impressed by the impact that the network has had on students at other schools throughout Melbourne.

The I CAN network has foundations in advocacy, education and providing opportunities to a wide variety of students. While an aspect of the focus of the I CAN network is providing opportunities to build relationships and confidence for students on the Autism spectrum, it is equally keen to work with all interested students at Swinburne Senior Secondary College.

Over the next academic year the I CAN network will provide the College with mentors who will work with a group of interested students from Year 11 and Year 12. In a series of dedicated sessions these students will have the opportunity to work closely with I CAN team members building confidence, resilience and having the opportunity to form bonds with a network of students at the College.

It is hoped that these sessions will give our students the opportunity to develop skills, but will also provide them the opportunity to work with a supportive adult and other students throughout the year.

We have had a number of students approach us to be involved with this program after participating in an assembly with Chris Varney, Founder and Chief Enabling Officer of the I CAN network. Chris' presentation was well received by students and parents can also hear what Chris had to say by watching his TedTalk on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1HQKB2txgY>

Based on the feedback received from the assembly and discussions in mentor groups, we would like to take this opportunity to extend the offer to parents/guardians who think that their student could benefit from the program.

A parent information evening will be held in Term 2 on Monday 18 April from 6:30-8 pm. If you are interested, or would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact Elizabeth Reardon, Welfare Manager, on either 8862 4400 or [reardon.elizabeth.e@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:reardon.elizabeth.e@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Please RSVP if you would like to attend by Thursday 14 April.

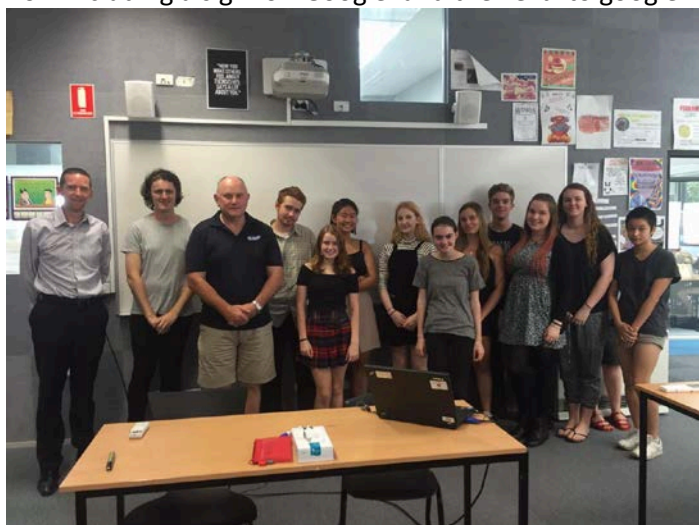
*Elizabeth Reardon*  
*Welfare Manager*



## English Language 'Deaf Awareness' training guest speaker

Year 11 English Language students had the opportunity to partake in 'Deaf Awareness' training with David Peters from VicDeaf and his interpreter on March 4. David was born deaf like his entire family since three-generations. David spoke to the class about his general experiences of being deaf, such as having other strong senses and an awareness of vibrations.

From there, students in the class learned how they should approach someone who is deaf and not to consider a deaf person as disabled but a speaker of a different language (AUSLAN) that is visually-based rather than sound-based like English. Like sound-based languages, the class learned that sign languages have a distinct grammar and vary geographically, such as between American Sign Language and AUSLAN. They also evolve over time, with AUSLAN now including a sign for 'Google' and the verb 'to google'.



Students learned to sign their own names using finger spelling and to have a brief conversation.

*'It was really interesting to hear from someone who always been profoundly deaf and whose family is deaf and immersed in a different language-based culture'* – Tanisha Young, Year 11 English Language student

*Mark Parkes*

*Year 11 English Language Teacher*

### Term One: Hopes, Dreams and Swinburne Values

Term one is always a happy time at Swinburne as students embrace the possibilities of completing their VCE or VCAL at a new school and the freedom to choose where to spend lunchtime and non-scheduled class time. Term one is characterised by hope and the growing realisation that to be successful one has to take responsibility for one's learning in ways that may not have previously been part of one's school experience.

Towards the end of term one coursework requirements and the number of assessment tasks grow and, for the first time, all three of our core values come into play.

Respect comes first, usually in the first week or two as students and teachers get to know each other and trust is built while the teaching and learning relationship develops. This is an exciting time at Swinburne where plans are made and dreams of success loom large.

Responsibility comes with the growing realisation that to achieve at the level they expect students must begin to develop the independent work practices that characterise a successful student. In week five the first interim report cycle serves as a wake-up call for all students as they realise that the VCE and VCAL are marathon events. For many this report serves as confirmation that they are on track and developing responsibility for their learning. For some it is an opportunity to pause, take stock and to set goals to work more consistently and responsibly as they plan to achieve better results in the second interim report cycle which is in week 10.

Commitment is required to run the VCE and VCAL well, tackling the year not as a series of high stress sprints through assessment tasks but as a race that is won by steadily applying oneself to engagement in class activities, learning and preparation for assessment. Performance in assessment should hold no surprises students who have committed to their training. Commitment is probably the most challenging of our values but also the most important, in the VCE/VCAL and in life.

To commit one must engage fully in the moment. This may seem like it would take a great deal of energy, but as most of us eventually realise it is the things we do half-heartedly that really wear us down. There are many reasons why students avoid commitment, let's look at a few.

- **Fear of failure:** This is very common amongst VCE and VCAL students and often takes the form of 'What if I commit but do not achieve my dreams?' This fear can be overwhelming for some but can be contained by the knowledge that it is such a waste of time and energy to finish the year with the realisation that one didn't go for a personal best. Failure is rare, failing to commit is the challenge to overcome.
- **Fear of success:** Ironically some students are afraid that by doing well they will be committing themselves to a life of work that will never end. The VCE will finish, but commitment will not and learning to manage success brings another set of challenges, mostly positive ones.
- **Fear of losing autonomy:** some students fear losing themselves in their work, that by committing to the VCE they will lose their independence and cease to be their own person. Perhaps another way of thinking about it is to realise that commitment allows one to control one's autonomy.

- Fear of being alone: Yes there will be many hours alone, but with commitment there can also be many hours with one's friends and colleagues, either studying or relaxing knowing that the job is done for the day and that socialising has been well earned. It can be a revelatory experience.
- Fear of attachment: Lack of commitment can keep others away. Parents and teachers can be kept at arm's length by characterising the relationship as one of conflict rather than collaboration. Letting others in opens a whole new depth in one's relationships, which can take the strain when the going gets tough. The VCE and VCAL is a team event and everyone at Swinburne is on the same team.

Let's conclude by visualising the start line of a fun run. There are some participants who stand at the starting line nervously checking their watches, determined to win. There are many more, however, who have trained simply to achieve a personal best. And then there are those who are decked out in fancy costume, running for the joy of it. Each enjoys the race in their own way but all can learn a thing or two from the others, just as we do at Swinburne. Get some tips from your teachers, use the holidays to mix up your training and come back refreshed for the next leg. There is a long way to go, pace yourself.

*Jo Flack*  
School Improvement Manager

### **Budding Entrepreneurs meet a successful one!**

The Year 11 Business Management teams were trained on financial literacy by the the Start Smart professionals from Commonwealth Bank on modules that included Smart Saving, Smart Investing and Smart Earning at the beginning of this term.

Equipped with these skills, they then met Sheryl Thai, Founder and CEO of CupCake Central who gave them lessons from her success story and took them to her store on Glenferrie Road to show them how her passion with just AUD \$2000 start up money had led to a successful chain of cupcake stores.



Spurred on by this practical insight, they are now actively working on their business plans for various ventures in teams that will be implemented on Market Day on 18 April. They have plans to feed the school with a variety of foods including vegan options, supply them with art material, tote bags, jewellery and even have an Op shop planned with donations from the school community. So watch this space for photos in the next edition and donate clean used clothes to them if possible. They are collecting on Mondays and Thursdays at recess outside the student lounge.



*Gita Menon*  
Business Management Teacher

### **CHANCES**

Two representatives from the Boroondara Cares Foundation visited the school on Tuesday 22 March to present scholarships for 2016

Scholarships were awarded to Kadesha (Year 11), Tatyana and Fela (Year 12). The scholarships were presented over a light lunch where students were able to discuss the progress that they were making with their studies this year.





### Change of Personal Details

We are currently working through the process of updating our database with personal details. If you have changed any information please forward the changes to our General Office staff, Florence, Gail or Judy.

*Gail, Florence and Judy*  
General Office

### Host Families Needed For New Exchange Students in 2016

Many French girls and boys aged between 15 and 18 are hoping to come here to study for 3, 5 or 10 months this year and stay with a volunteer host family. The family must be willing to welcome them, include them in their daily lives, and be able to afford an extra member at the family table, as there is no payment involved.

If you feel you could do this for them for the length of their stay or even some of it, please contact Klaus Schumann on (03) 97584279 or by email and let me know of your interest.

Those coming for 3 months will be here in May, those staying longer in July this year, but still happy if you'd like to host one of these students for 3 months. Hope to hear from you.

*Klaus Schumann,*  
SCCE Community Coordinator  
[klaus.schumann@hotmail.com](mailto:klaus.schumann@hotmail.com)

### Humans of Swinburne

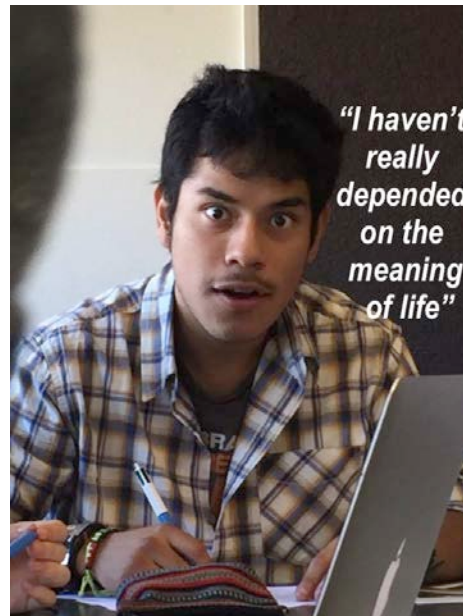
This term the 12 VCAL English class have been studying documentary. We watched *Girlhood* (about young girls in the criminal justice system), *Murderball* (about paraplegics playing wheelchair rugby), and *Love in Full Colour* (about LGBTI teenagers from Victoria attending the Minus 18 Same-Sex formal). In our final week of classes we made a photo documentary series called "Humans of Swinburne".



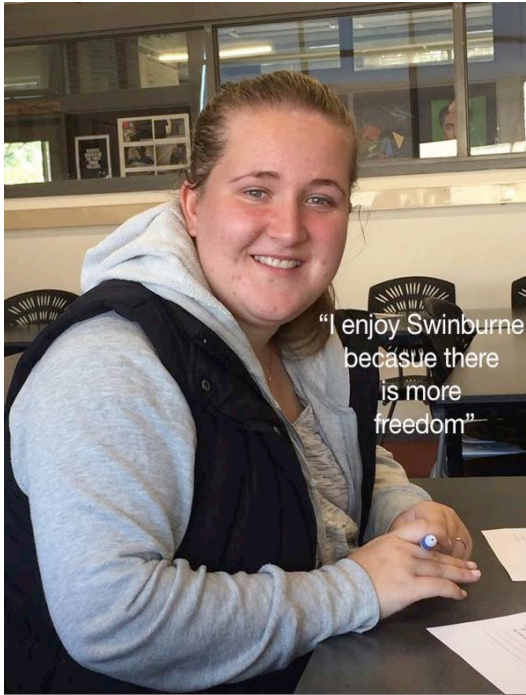
I am going to Torquay with my family. I am going to celebrate a 30th birthday. I am going to rest and swim in the beach



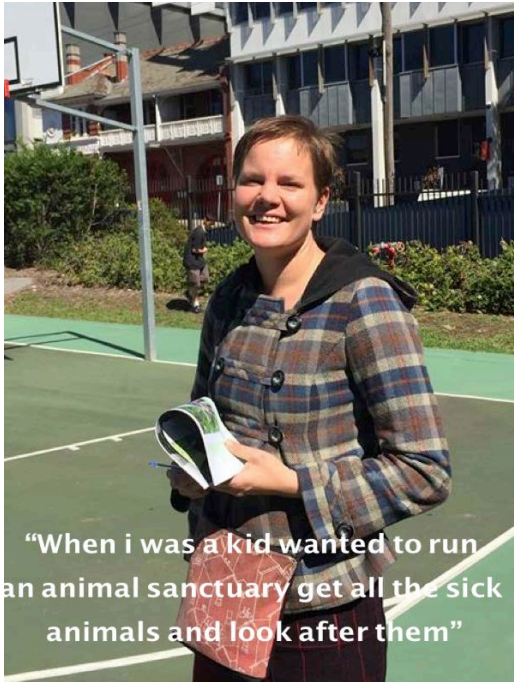
Above: "Don't change the person you are to make somebody happy"



Above: "I love rap music, I dress to look fresh"



"I enjoy Swinburne  
because there  
is more  
freedom"



"When i was a kid wanted to run  
an animal sanctuary get all the sick  
animals and look after them"

