

## Senior School College Newsletter November 2021

Welcome to the Term 4 Senior School video newsletter.

2021 has been another tough year for Melburnians and that includes our Senior School students and teachers, as after a few short lock downs we found term 3's two week lock down rolling into months before we have been able to slowly return to a more normal routine.

Over the past few weeks the Year 9 students have returned to school and been working on completing their studies for the year. A key focus of Year 9 is building relationships, having new experiences and challenging each student with this to push them to better themselves. Our Year 9 program has yet again been disrupted and the recent reduction of COVID restrictions has given us a small window at the end of this year for our Year 9 teachers to take their classes off site to the City to catch up on these missed excursions. In addition, the usual focus camp at the start of term 4 will now run at the end of term and hopefully provide an exciting opportunity for our students to challenge themselves, have fun and finish off their Year 9 with a great experience.

It was with great relief and some excitement that our students across Senior School returned during the first few weeks of Term 4. Our Year 12 students returned in week one for the GAT exam that went smoothly, and our Year 11 and 12 students quickly returned full time. However, we were briefly disrupted with a COVID case onsite, and I would like to thank all of our students, teacher and parents for their support, helpfulness and understanding over the past few weeks whilst we have followed the guidelines about students isolation as it was required.

We hope that with last weeks relaxing of restrictions, and shorter isolation periods that we can return in 2022 with less disruption to our teaching and learning programs.

It was fantastic last week to have our Year 12 "Celebration Day" to mark their last day of year 12 and this was celebrated with a year level breakfast with students dressed up in fun costumes followed by a parade around the College, Year level photograph and commemorative tree planting ceremony. In the evening our students arrived dressed in glamorous dresses and suits at our Graduation evening. Here we acknowledge and celebrate the achievement of completing 13 years of schooling and wished our students well as they complete their time at Hazel Glen College.

Across the next few weeks our Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students will experience an early start day or week where there will be orientation activities and lessons that will introduce them to the Year ahead. Year 10 and 11 students will have an extended early start program to help address key concepts and learning skills that may have been missed this year. We hope that this will provide some normality with the transition to higher year levels and new subjects that they will study next year.

I wish all students and parents a safe, restful and relaxing Christmas break after what has been another unique and challenging year for all. I look forward to seeing all of the Senior School

students when they return in 2022 for what is hopefully a more traditional and less disrupted year.

Neil Baillie

Senior School Principal