College Newsletter – July 2015

Farewell Dr Prager
Today we farewell Maths and Chemistry teacher Dr Brenda Prager. Brenda has accepted a Professorship at the University of Mississippi and heads off for life in the USA soon. She will be taking a year’s Leave to realise her dream of working in the USA. We wish her well. Brenda has made a significant contribution to our school; in particular her development of the college’s Occupational Health and Safety approach which sees us rated in the top 2% of schools in Victoria for workplace safety.
Bryan Fields has replaced Brenda. Bryan has been working with us since Term 2 this year. Good luck Brenda.

Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews
Student/Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday 25 August 2015 from Midday to 7.00pm here at the college. Semester Two Interviews are a vital element of the partnership we share to ensure your child succeeds at Senior College and build their success in future study or employment. Your active support and involvement in these discussions is critical and we encourage all parents to meet with teachers this term.
For Year 12 students this is the final opportunity to discuss, in a one to one session with each teacher, what your child needs to do in the lead up to their final exams and how you can help them achieve their best results. All year 12 students are expected to attend an interview.
For Year 11 students this is an opportunity to discuss the progress your child is making in each of their subjects, to help them to focus on their results this year and to plan their programs for the year ahead. All Year 11 students should take this opportunity to focus for next year.
For Year 10 students the meeting will give you an understanding of where your child is at right now as we consider VCE or VCAL subject/course selections for 2016. All Year 10s will benefit from this discussion and goal setting.

2016 Enrolments
Enrolments for the 2016 school year will open from Thursday 13 August. It is anticipated we will have approximately 450 students at TSC in 2016 meaning spaces will be limited. Families considering enrolment at TSC for 2016 need to act fast. Priority is given to families for whom TSC is the closest school to home.
We ask existing families with friends or neighbours planning on enrolling to urge them to contact the college as soon as possible to avoid potential disappointment. Early enrolment ensures students can select from a wide range of subjects on offer; late enrolment may limit a student’s subject choices.

Arriving late to school
Arriving late to school is symptomatic of a student being disorganised. These students struggle to cope with the demands of senior schooling and fall behind as they miss regular starts of classes. If your child is a regular ‘sleeper-in’; we ask that you support us by encouraging them to get up and get to school on time.

Internet Upgrade
After months of ‘negotiation’ between our IT Leader Martin Mielimaka and the Department of Education our internet bandwidth has been significantly upgraded. Rather than the
Department supporting us however; we were required to completely fund this upgrade at considerable cost to the school.

**Year 12 – Time to knuckle down**
Term 3 is ‘hammer time’ for Year 12 students. They must be studying hard every night and working hard at school every day. There should be no absences during Term 3 and our Year 12s must be using their time at home effectively. As parents your role is super important – supporting your child but also making sure they are working hard at home. Any student who tells a parent they ‘have no homework’ at this time of Year 12 – is wrong.

**Information Evenings**
Information Evenings will be held on Tuesday 4 August for Year 10 to VCE/VCAL and on Tuesday 11 August for 2016 Year 10 students. These sessions are designed to give parents and students a clear idea about life at our college and are highly recommended for families.

**Breakfast Club**
The college has begun to operate a breakfast club on Tuesdays. Students are invited to join us for breakfast in the Foods Room from 7.50am every Tuesday.

**Safe PL8 Fundraiser**
VCAL Senior students are running a Safe PL8 Anti-Theft Screw Fundraiser!! Safe PL8 are unique Anti-theft screws that securely and safely hold license plates onto your car 100%, without the risk of them being stolen. Number plate theft is very common and stolen plates are often used in crimes like petrol thefts and armed robberies. The screws can be tightened, but only removed with a special tool, which is only held at police stations and also at VicRoads. For only a gold coin donation, the Senior VCAL class will fit your car with the screws. Contact VCAL staff Julie or Kathryn at the college.

**Parking on Begonia Rd**
Please park your car on the school side of Begonia Rd if visiting the college for a meeting. Our neighbours are having their driveways blocked too often. Students with cars have been asked to make sure they park on ‘our’ side of the street each day to prevent our neighbour’s driveways being blocked.

**Year 12 Psychology guests**
Last week we had some well-behaved visitors at TSC to show the Year 12 Psychology class how to behave. Miss Every brought in her pet dogs Artie and Astro to demonstrate how Operant and Classical Conditioning techniques can be used when training your pet. There were a few apprehensive students who were not comfortable around dogs, but were soon cautiously interacting and giving some simple commands. Woof!
Course Counselling
Choosing courses for year 11 and 12 can be a daunting prospect for many students and their families. To assist in selecting their subjects all students will be involved in our course counselling day soon. Classes will run as usual with each student having a specific course counselling appointment time. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend this session. Students will need to bring with them their completed course counselling assignment and signed subject selection sheet. Details of the programs offered at the College can be found on the College website under the learning@tsc tab. Families are encouraged to speak to our staff if you have any queries regarding subject selection for 2016.

Stage 2 Update
The college has received responses to our letters to the Department of Education in regard to our much needed Stage 2 Funding. You may remember that we were again denied funding in the May 2015 Budget...
Letters from the Minister for Education and the Premier of Victoria, whilst being bureaucratic in tone, have clearly stated that the Department are aware of our pressing needs in relation to completing our school.

Smoking – A health hazard
The college has received a report of a small number of students smoking on the way to and from school. Smoking is illegal on government grounds and it is also illegal for those under the age of eighteen to purchase cigarettes. We ask that parents be aware of their children’s smoking habits and support them, as we do, in realising smoking only leads to bad health outcomes.

New Bus routes ‘opening up’ Tarneit
Our new bus timetable is already having an impact for families; as is the opening of the Railway station. Bus routes are posted all over our school and we hope that our students have taken the time to work out which bus they can now catch to get to school.
Our Attendance Officer Karyn has also produced a brochure for students outlining which bus to catch. These can be picked up by students at the House Leader office.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability ‘Collection Notice’
All schools in Australia, including Independent and Catholic schools, will participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability in 2015. The Data Collection is an annual count of the number of students with disability receiving support to participate in education on the same basis as other students.
All schools are required under the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to provide information on a student’s level of education, disability and level of adjustment to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. No student’s identity will be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, just the number of students at TSC who receive support funding to complete their education.

Michael Fawcett & Rosa Marchionda
Principal Team