MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A school is much more than a timetable of classes and subjects.

Stawell Secondary College is an opportunity to learn a musical instrument, to exhibit art, to compete in team or individual sport, to enter photography, craft or foods into the Stawell Show and to develop positive relationships with friends and with teachers.

In 2017, there will be some consolidations and some innovations. Certainly, the house system has consolidated and along with home groups teachers, the house leaders are primary contact points with the College. The house structure provides opportunities for community involvement, multi-age friendships to develop and the daily contact each morning with the home group teacher allows for a stable contact point to begin each day.

Innovations include the introduction of individual learning plans which will be facilitated by the home group teacher. Another innovation is the development of a well-being hub that integrates all of the student well-being services provided by the College as a ‘one stop shop’ located in the house leaders’ office.

This handbook maps the first stages of a journey culminating in the steps each student takes beyond school. It is worth reflecting that in the graduating class of 2015, 20 students out of 21 are studying their first preference tertiary course. And in 2016, over 80% of the senior VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) class is now undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship or in employment.

Cindy Bibby, Registrar, will assist each student to map their pathway.

Welcome to Stawell Secondary College.

Nicholas Lynch
Principal of Stawell Secondary College
August 2016

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# TIMETABLE

Each student receives a time table, also available on the Portal for you.


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- **Welcoming home group meeting each morning**
- **ICT Training** - to enable students to make best use of the College network
- **Enrichment electives**
- **Core subjects studied the whole year**
In 2017, Year 8 students will all study these core subjects for the whole year:

- English
- Science
- Health & Physical Education
- Chinese
- Mathematics
- Humanities
- Digital Learning

Students in 2017 will also study an Art and Technology subject, one subject per semester from the list below:

**TECHNOLOGY**
- Textiles
- Systems

**THE ARTS**
- Drama
- Visual Communication Design

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**ENGLISH**

In Year 8, English is taught to enhance students’ enjoyment of language and to encourage them to think critically, logically and imaginatively. Students will be exposed to a variety of learning experiences to meet their individual needs and interests.

Students complete a variety of writing tasks to develop their skills in a broad range of writing styles. They are encouraged to read widely, including one major class text per term. The set text may be a novel, but could be a film, poetry or play text. Students are involved in a range of oral tasks that may include group work, debates and formal speeches. They are provided with opportunities to participate in public speaking, writing and performance workshops and competitions.

Assessment continues throughout each semester and centres on the Victorian Curriculum domains of:

- **Literature, or Reading and Viewing (texts and comprehension)**, students reading and viewing a wide range of texts and media, including literacy texts such as novels, short stories, poetry, plays and media texts.
- **Literacy or Writing (students create their own texts)** involves students in the active process of conceiving, planning, composing, editing and publishing a range of texts, including writing for print and electronic media. It also involves the development of knowledge about strategies for writing and the conventions of Standard Australian English.
- **Language or Speaking and Listening** students study the formal and informal ways oral language is used to convey and receive meaning. It also involves active-listening strategies.
Mathematics knowledge and skills play a fundamental role in our society. This subject creates the opportunity for students to develop the numeracy capabilities that all students need in their personal, work and civic life.

The Year 8 mathematics curriculum caters to a broad range of mathematics abilities, as required by our students. Furthermore the mathematics curriculum engages students with practical and ‘real world’ problems which both boost student engagement and develop deeper mathematical understanding. In Year 8 students cover concepts and skills relating to:

- **Number & Algebra**
  - Real Numbers
  - Number and Place Values
  - Money & Financial Mathematics
  - Patterns & Algebra
  - Linear and Non-linear Relationships

- **Measurement & Geometry**
  - Using Units of Measurement
  - Geometric Reasoning

- **Statistics & Probability**
  - Chance
  - Data Representation & Interpretation

**ASSESSMENT:**
- Problem Solving Tasks
- Homework Sheets
- Unit Tests
- Project Investigation Reports
- Observation of Class Activities

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**SCIENCE**

Students in science continue to build upon the skills they developed through year 7 science. Students will develop an understanding of microscopic structures such as cells and use this to explore the structures of the human body. They will describe the interaction of energy and matter including the role heat and pressure play in the rock cycle. Through these areas of study students will develop their inquiry and hypothesis skills. They will purposefully design models and experiments to demonstrate underlying theories. Furthermore, students will articulate the value of science in broader society, describing how scientific understanding evolves over time.

**ASSESSMENT:**
- Topic tests
- Practical work
- Assignments and Presentations.
Year 8 Humanities at Stawell Secondary College includes the study of both Civics and Citizenship together with Economics and Business. The Humanities curriculum is designed to promote student centred learning that is inquiry based, hands on and encourages team work.

Civics and Citizenship is essential in enabling students to become active and informed citizens who participate in and sustain Australia’s democracy. Through the study of Civics and Citizenship, students investigate political and legal systems, and explore the nature of citizenship, diversity and identity in contemporary society. They gain the knowledge and skills necessary to question, understand and contribute to the world in which they live.

The Economics and Business curriculum explores the ways in which individuals, families, the community, workers, businesses and governments make decisions in relation to the allocation of resources. It enables students to understand the process of economic and business decision-making at the personal, local, national, regional and global levels and the effects of these decisions on themselves and others, now and in the future. Students learn to appreciate the interdependence of decisions made and develop the knowledge, understanding and skills that will inform and encourage them to participate in, and contribute to, the economy.

**ASSESSMENT:**
Students will be given opportunities to demonstrate their skills and knowledge through
- Topic tests
- Assessments – Research based
- Homework Tasks
- Classroom Participation.

**HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HAPE)**

In Year 8 Health and Physical Education students will develop motor skills, tactics and strategies and apply these to improve individual and team performance. They will evaluate their personal fitness, level of physical activity and identify factors that influence motivation to be physically active. Students will participate in a range of activities including swimming and water safety, athletics, basketball, cricket, gymnastics, dance, soft lacrosse, tennis and personal fitness testing. Students will explore the physical, social and emotional changes that occur during adolescence including puberty and self-awareness. They will consider the factors that influence their own development and wellbeing. Students will learn the different classifications of drugs, their effects and the harm they cause. They will identify outcomes of risk taking behaviours and evaluate harm minimization strategies.

**ASSESSMENT:**
- Peer and teacher observation
- Practical skills and participation
- Video Analysis
- Assignments
- Presentations
- Summative tests

**DIGITAL LEARNING**

This is a continuation of Year 7 Digital Learning, where students are shown more computer programs that are available on their devices. They have the opportunity to use these programs briefly, learning some of their capabilities and opportunities where such programs could be used. Students learn the importance of computer and network security, general computer care and maintenance, accessing and saving files on the school network and the importance of backing up your work. Students will also be introduced to computer programming, and will learn how to create their own basic program. This subject operates throughout the year, for one period per fortnight.
Chinese is the language to learn in the 21st Century. It has become one of the most useful skills for future employment in Australia. For this generation, it is essential that they understand an Asian culture in recognition of the importance of Asia for the prosperity of Australia.

Students work to expand their vocabulary for conversational and written Chinese language and improve their cultural awareness based on the foundation they established in Year 7. Students will interact to exchange information and opinions on topics related to the world of adolescence including study, leisure, relationships and careers. They will use language to exchange information, express opinions, ideas, feelings and plans orally and through written correspondence. Students will participate in excursions to cultural activities, Chinese language competitions and culture days with students from other Victorian schools. The school organises school trips to China and students will be encouraged to participate in these programs to improve their learning of Chinese language.

ASSESSMENT:
Students will be assessed on the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through class participation, tests and assessment assignments such as multimedia tasks, projects and role plays.
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Students will undertake the following subjects for one semester each. They will study one Art subject and one Technology subject per semester.

THE ARTS

VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

Visual Communication is a year 8 subject that continues on as an elective subject in year 9, 10 and then VCE levels. The subject is inspired by design of all types, including architecture, product design, landscape design and graphic design. Although a very creative subject, students gain a range of transferable skills, including technical drawing, visual analysis and use of digital design programs such as Adobe Illustrator and Google sketchup. Students will be able to create their own logos, learn about typography, create perspective drawing landscapes, learn to use scale and measurement in paraline drawings and use the design elements and principles to achieve an imaginative response for a given design brief. Students are encouraged to use their own interests to inspire their design, as well as being given a range of designers and artists to study to further develop student individual artistic style.

ASSESSMENT:
• Visual Diary
• Final Presentations

FURTHER STUDIES:
Year 9  Visual Communication Design

DRAMA

Drama offers students the opportunity to reach their creative and expressive potential by making and responding to Drama independently and in groups. Throughout the semester, students begin to build on their understanding of role, character and relationships through exploring various expressive skills and dramatic elements. They shape Drama using narrative and non-narrative dramatic forms, which they then evaluate and reflect upon. As they make and respond to Drama, students explore ways meaning is created in Drama. They generate their own understanding of various social, cultural and historical issues and respond through performance. In doing so, students develop a sense of inquiry and empathy by exploring the diversity of Drama in the contemporary world and in other times, places and cultures. Lastly, students build confidence, self-esteem and their ability to work cooperatively with their peers.

ASSESSMENT:
• Soundscape
• Group performance
• Reflection
• Research task and poster
• Monologue
• Self and peer evaluation
**TECHNOLOGY**

For the production classes students are required to wear:

- leather school shoes or boots (runners or sandshoes of any type are not acceptable)
- protective clothing such as aprons, overalls or old clothes
- safety equipment as deemed necessary by the teacher

**SYSTEMS**

This unit will guide students through a series of progressive and controlled sequential practical modules and expand their knowledge and understanding of mechanical systems and electrical/electronic principles. Throughout this unit of work, students will gain a basic understanding of the interdependence of theory and practical skills to successfully work on systems projects. Students will work independently and in teams. Design briefs will provide the direction for students to investigate, design, produce and evaluate mechanical and then electronic systems. Students will investigate at least two issues relating to a product and use the information to analyse and evaluate the product against a range of criteria. Students will use a range of tools, equipment and basic production processes to safely produce products to a satisfactory standard. Production tasks may include activities such as CO2 dragster cars, bicycle repair and modification and electronic kit construction.

**ASSESSMENT:**
Assessment will consist of course work, investigation reports, design and production folio, production work, evaluation reports and concepts and principles tests.

**FURTHER STUDIES:**
Year 8 Systems leads onto Year 9 Systems, Year 10 Systems and VCE Systems Engineering.

**TEXTILES**

In this subject students develop an understanding of the product design process and identify major steps in the production of a designed product, the materials, equipment and components required. They learn to identify different textile products and develop ideas in response to a design brief. They learn a variety of skills and techniques, and the safe use of a range of tools and equipment, such as the sewing machine. Students become familiar with different processes and learn to evaluate their work and make modifications or improvements. Students complete a minimum of three practical items requiring different skills and using different equipment. Students study different crafts with emphasis on natural fibres. Production skills may include hand sewing, machine sewing, fabric painting and dyeing, knitting, felting and the use of a commercial pattern. Production tasks may include self-designed sewing bag, soft toys, boxer shorts, or other creative ideas. Students are required to keep a design folio recording the stages of their design process.

**ASSESSMENT:**
- Practical Work
- Design Folio
- Research and Evaluation Tasks

**FURTHER STUDIES**
Year 9 Textiles
Instrumental Music is an extra, co-curricular program that runs parallel to the main timetable and is offered to all students in the school. Students get a specialist lesson each week and as soon as they are ready they are strongly encouraged to join the school band which gives them the opportunity to further develop, consolidate and extend their skills in ways that cannot be achieved in lessons alone. Participation in band also opens up opportunities to work with students from other schools.

Instruments offered include Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto or Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Percussion/Drums and Piano.

Lessons are scheduled on a rotating timetable so students do not constantly miss the same subject. This timetable is emailed to families, available to check in the portal and displayed on the music noticeboard near the canteen.

Students register and pay for lessons each semester with lessons beginning the week following the submission of forms with payment.

Lesson fees are $80 per semester. Home practice is essential for success.

To support this, a limited number of hire instruments are also available at a cost of $80 per semester.

Students choosing Elective Classroom Music should be aware that at year 9 and 10 they are also strongly
ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Every subject will require students to complete three main common assessment tasks (CATs) spread throughout the two terms. These assessment tasks may include such things as written exercises, practical work, folio work, task sheets and presentations. Parents will be notified if students have not completed or unsatisfactorily completed any of these assessment tasks, and students will be able to redeem their assessments at a later date. Students will receive their results from their subject teacher and be given feedback on how they can improve in future assessments.

REPORTING

Each student enrolled at Stawell Secondary College will receive reports to inform parents and guardians of their child’s progress in each subject. Each semester students will receive two reports. The first being a basic report on students learning behaviours that will inform parents/guardians about their child’s progress so far in a subject. This report will be given at the end of terms 1 and 3. The second type of report will be a longer, more in-depth report on students academic results as well as their learning behaviours in each subject. Every subject will report on learning behaviours (both general and subject specific), CAT results received throughout the semester, and written feedback in regards to what the student can do to improve their results in the subject. Students reports will also contain a comment from their home group teacher in regards to how students can best achieve their learning goals.

HOMEWORK

Homework is defined as learning activities related to school curriculum, which teachers expect students to complete in their own time. Homework is an essential ingredient for ongoing success at school. Parents should be aware that students are expected to undertake homework, which will be on a regular basis.

The amount of homework required will depend on each subject; however, on average a Year 8 student could expect up to 2.5 hours per week.