

ISSUE 1

BENDIGO SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGE

Parent Newsletter



1 March 2010

Principal's News

2010 Begins

It's now four weeks since the 2010 school year started and I welcome the opportunity to provide parents with a range of information about the progress of the college.

The year started with a pleasing increase in enrolments and fifteen new staff as well as several teachers returning from leave. Thank you to parents for coming in for meetings with advisors during our Blast Off week. The week was well organised and provided an opportunity for students to get a taste of their classes as well as participate in a wide range of other activities including workshops and our pool party.

2009 Year 12 Students

The college was pleased with the results of our Year 12 students in 2009. Our results have been widely distributed and parents will be aware of the outstanding performance of our Dux, **Yimei Zhou (99.9)** and our 43 other students with ENTERs in excess of 90, as well as the seven students who achieved perfect study scores of 50 in a range of subjects.

As is the case in every year, our graduating students now find themselves in far flung locations. Several are now in receipt of significant scholarships to support their tertiary studies. Our 2009 Student of the Year, **Jaymie Vear**, is in deep snow in Dillon, Colorado as she has taken up a position in the US for a year prior to returning to commence further study. 2010 students will be kept up to date with Jaymie's adventures through occasional inclusions in our Student News.

Among the students taking up tertiary places this year will be our 2008 Student of the Year, **Jaan Butler**, who has been awarded one of only seven prestigious Hawker Scholarships and will study at the Australian National University this year. Further details will come via a separate press release.

It has also been pleasing to hear that two of our students were invited to participate in the 2010 VCAA Season of Excellence which recognises outstanding student performance in the Arts. **Aaron McPhan** will perform at the Melbourne Recital Centre as part of the Top Class Sound program and **Amy Lawrance** has been invited to exhibit in the Top Arts program at the National Gallery of Victoria. These invitations recognise the elite performance of these students – congratulations!

Newsletter Distribution

This newsletter is published at the start of each month. Parents are advised via an SMS message that the newsletter is available from the college website www.bssc.edu.au. Hard copies are also available from the General Office at the college or if preferred can be emailed (contact: admin@bssc.edu.au).

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Upcoming Events

- 10/3 Melbourne University Information session
- 11/3 Parent & Friends Forum- Study Habits & Skills
- 17/3 Harmony Day
- 18/3 2011 GAP Year Expo
- 26/3 Term 1 ends
- 01/4 Next Parent Newsletter
- 12/4 Term 2 commences

My School Website

Many parents will have seen my article in the Bendigo Advertiser regarding the release of the My School website. In summary, I believe parents have access to much more detailed and richer information directly from schools and from other sources. The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority publish detailed performance data and all schools, including ours, produce a detailed Annual Report.

I was concerned with inaccuracies in our college's profile data, which included errors in student enrolment, staff numbers and student destinations. Over time I'm sure the data can be adjusted and the quality of the information on the website will improve. One element which does need to change is the use of the ICSEA index to compare schools. The index is deeply flawed as a measure of the socio economic profile of school communities and as a means of grouping schools for the purpose of comparison.

Australia Day Honours

Parents (and perhaps grandparents with long memories!) may be interested to know that one of our former students, Garry Leigh Warne (BHS 1956) was recognised in the Australia Day Honours list, becoming a Member (AM) in the General Division for services to medicine in the field of paediatric endocrinology, and to the improvement of child health care and infrastructure in developing countries.

Education Tax Refund

Eligible parents are reminded that they may claim a tax refund of up to \$1500 for educational expenses for each eligible secondary school student. This would entitle parents to a refund for expenses such as textbooks, computer equipment, study guides, stationery and other educational expenses.

Parents must be eligible to receive Family Tax Benefit Part A, which depends on the number of children you have, their ages and your family income. Parents should seek further advice from a qualified taxation agent.



Dale Pearce, Principal

Old Gold Ex-Student & Staff Association



Saturday May 1st 2010 - BHS 1974-1979 Annual Reunion

Saturday May 15th 2010 - BHS 1970-1975 40th Reunion

Please contact Wendy Talbot 5449 6176 or Jean Capuano 5446 9431

Parents & Friends Forums

We invite all parents to attend our Parents & Friends Forums in 2010. Please add these dates to your calendar.

Thursday 11 March - Study habits and Skills

Wednesday 28 April - eLearning and Wellbeing

Thursday 20 May - GAT and ENTER Scores

Tuesday 27 July - Accommodation Expo

Thursday 12 August - VTAC

Tuesday 12 October - Exam tips and strategies



Linda Lyons, Assistant Principal

Parking

The City of Greater Bendigo have contacted the college and requested that the following information be conveyed to our school community.



The illegal parking of vehicles adjacent to schools is a major concern to the safety of children, pedestrians and other road users. Parents are reminded that it is essential to comply with the parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting children from school.

Motorists must not stop in no stopping areas, next to a continuous yellow edge line, on resident's nature strips, too close to school crossings, park over driveways or double park. A number of schools have time restricted areas that assist with the pickup and drop off of students and these restrictions must be adhered to.

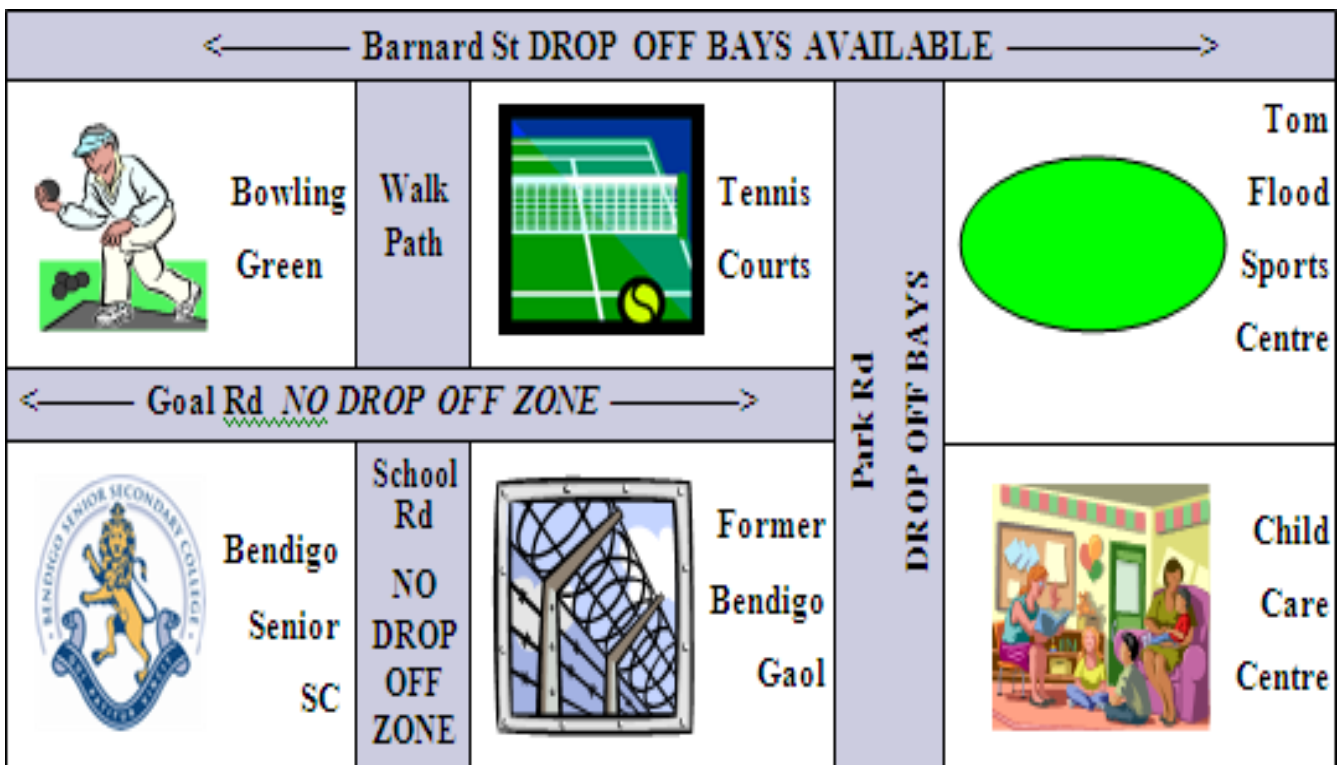
The law requires that a driver approaching a children's crossing must drive at a speed at which the driver can, if necessary stop safely before the crossing.

Please slow down and take extra care when driving in school zones.

City of Greater Bendigo Parking Officers will conduct random patrols throughout the school year to ensure that motorists are adhering to the Road Rules.

John Hasty, Parking Coordinator, City of Greater Bendigo

Phone: 5434 6270 Fax: 5434 6209 Email: j.hasty@bendigo.vic.gov.au



Parents, guardians and students are asked not to enter Gaol Road or School Road to drop off or collect students. **Gaol Road is a no stopping area** and you may be fined, even if only stopping momentarily. Cars entering these roads make it dangerous for pedestrians in these areas. ONLY taxis and cars displaying a disabled permit are to use the semi-circular road in front of the former goal as a drop off area. Please use the drop off bays available in Park Road or Barnard St where students can be dropped off safely and then walk to the college. **Parents are not permitted to drive onto school property and students are not permitted to park on College Grounds.**

Park Road Closure

Parents are advised that for the first 6 weeks of Term 1 the southern end of Park Road (the one-way section alongside the Chinese Museum) will be closed due to road works. The entry into Park Road from Barnard Street will remain open as usual. Other areas available for drop off include: QEO, Bull St, Williamson St adjacent to Rosalind Park.

Dale Pearce, Principal

Who to Contact . . .

Welcome to our new parents and a welcome back to those parents who have had a student at Bendigo Senior Secondary College either last year or in previous years. Over the next editions of the Parent Newsletter we will feature articles on staff in our Leadership Team. This month we begin with our 3 Assistant Principals.

The Assistant Principals are involved in providing overall leadership of the college and are available to answer any queries that parents or students may have, although your student's Pathway Advisor is the best person to contact with enquiries about your student's progress.

Assistant Principal - Staffing and Organisational Health



Bev Miller

My key responsibility is for the appointment and management of staff at the college. The college aims to provide the best possible teaching and learning environment for your student. This year we have 130 Teaching Staff and 53 Education Support Staff.

I also have a key role in the Occupational Health and Safety at the college.

Assistant Principal - Teaching and Learning



Meredith Fettleing

My responsibility lies with Teaching and Learning and ensuring that the Curriculum we provide is challenging and engaging for students and more importantly enables all students to achieve their personal best. BSSC staff are very committed to helping students get the most from their VCE or VCAL program and I remind you to urge your son or daughter to seek help outside of class from their teachers as often as they need to.

Education is a partnership between the College and you as the parent, and to help you stay informed of your student's progress, we will be forwarding ongoing progress reports each 6 weeks commencing in the next week. These progress reports will give you an indication of how well your son or daughter is progressing.

Students in Year 11 should be aiming to do at least 2 hours of homework per subject per week while Year 12 students should aim to do at least 3 hours of homework per subject per week.

At any time you are invited and encouraged to contact your student's Pathway Advisor if you have any questions about your student's progress.

Assistant Principal - Student Wellbeing and Programs



Linda Lyons

My responsibility within the College is related to Student Wellbeing and Programs. I oversee the work of our Student Engagement Team, Pathways and Transition Team and International Program Team. I have responsibility for ensuring that appropriate wellbeing support is provided for all students. This starts with each student's Pathway Advisor and includes the work of the Student Coordinators, Student Counsellors, Managed Individual Pathways staff, Indigenous and New Arrivals Programs staff and our team looking after students with disability and impairment funding.

Key priorities within our Student Engagement Team for 2010 continue to include improving student opportunities for leadership and decision making, increasing student attendance levels and improving motivation and connectedness to the college. This year we will also focus on implementing the recommendations of our 2009 Wellbeing Review. Other key work involves supporting Indigenous students and our New Arrival refugee students to achieve positive outcomes at the college. The Bendigo Indigenous Homework Centre (BIHC) operates on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 – 5.30pm to provide a supportive environment for after school learning for BSSC students and for those from the other secondary schools in Bendigo. Tutors also provide support to BSSC students throughout the week during private study lessons through

department WANNIK funding. Our new Bendigo ESL Learning Support (BELS) program has commenced this year and operates as an after school learning support program on Tuesday afternoons from 3.30-5.30pm to support New Arrival students from BSSC and Bendigo South East and on Thursday afternoons at the same time for students from BSSC and Weeroona College. This program is supported by volunteer tutors sourced through the Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services and is coordinated this year by an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher.

Priorities with our Pathways and Transition Team for 2010 include a review of a Pathway Program structure to ensure that our 2011 Pathway Community structure will provide students with the best possible advice and support whilst at the college and for making appropriate pathway choices for the future. All students should now have an active Individual Education Plan to guide continued improvement in the areas of learning, wellbeing and pathways. Our careers and MIPs staff provide further support to ensure that students have sustainable pathways on leaving BSSC, whether it be to work, traineeships or further education.

My work related to International Programs covers the areas of International Fee Paying Student enrolments, promoting positive relationships with our sister schools in China and overseeing the operation of our English Language Centre and exchange student programs. I also have responsibility for managing the VCAA and internal exams process in the college and managing the timetabling process for student programs.

Student attendance at Bendigo Senior Secondary College

“It’s not OK to be away “

Regular attendance to classes is vital if students are to achieve their potential! We need Parent/Guardian support to help foster a partnership to promote regular student attendance.

Although the College prides itself as being an adult learning environment it is essential that Parents/Guardians help maintain regular student attendance. Under DEECD policy, Parents/Guardians are required to communicate with the College about any student absences from (or lateness to) scheduled classes. This communication is required on the day of the absence by phoning the absence line (**5442 7416**) or providing a written note immediately upon a student’s return to school.

If a student is absent from class for unexplained reasons Parents/Guardians will receive an SMS text message from the college’s automated system on the day of the absence occurring. It is imperative that Parents/Guardians follow up and contact the College after receiving an absence notification. This can be achieved by texting a response to the absence SMS message received from the college or by ringing the absence line. It is important that when responding to a message that parents identify the following:

- Student’s full name.
- Students Pathway advisor group.
- Date of the absence.
- Clear reason for absence (please refer to parent handbook for approved reasons for absences)

It is important to also note that unless a response is received to provide an approved reason from a parent/guardian in relation to an absence SMS, the absence/s in question will remain unapproved on a student’s attendance record.

Absence Hotline
5442 7416



Please call this number if your child is absent.



Mark Lau, Student Manager

Pathway Program

Blast Off Week

We had a wonderful beginning to our school year! The highlight of our first week were the Parent/Student/Advisor interviews which are an incredibly important part of our program. Students appreciated the effective and motivating nature of our presenters, Michael Carr-Gregg for Year 12 and Don Elgin for Year 11. The Community Challenge at the pool was a fabulous afternoon with the Skilled Services Pathway Community winning the Duck’s Head.

Workshops

Students have begun selecting their workshops for Term 1, these workshops are held during Advisor Meeting times on Wednesdays throughout the year. Kathryn Hamilton, Amanda Ferguson and Sue Johnson have joined Stephen Brain, Bronnie Miller and Angie Pollock as workshop presenters. We also welcome Donna Weightman and Kelvin Curnow who present a number of 'wellbeing' workshops. All Year 11 students will also attend a compulsory workshop on Cyber Safety.

The workshops for Term 1 are:

- Student Council
- Tour the Library
- What's Your Pathway?
- Resume Riter
- How to Reduce Stress
- Your Mobile Phone and You
- How to Improve Your Sleep
- Ready, Set, Go and Be Inspired (motivating students for 2010)
- Multiple Intelligences (exploring students' learning styles)
- Write On! And Targeting Literacy
- How to Nail that Interview



Angie Pollock, Pathway Program Coordinator

Student Council 2010

The Student Council for 2010 has a busy time ahead. Over the past weeks students have been putting their hand up for the Student Council and all those who have shown an interest met for the first time on Monday 15 February. All students were informed of this opportunity through Student News, Assemblies and Pathway Advisor meetings.

On Monday 22 February, a training day for Student Council members was run by a team from Second Strike, a professional development organisation that specifically targets building the capacity of Student Council's in schools. They ran a session with BSSC last year with great success.

Student Council members have nominated for positions and the new **Executive Committee** are:

- President - **Emma Lewis**
- Vice President - **Patrick Clark**
- Secretary - **Karena Lane**
- Treasurer - **Abby Davey**

Year 11 girls have been given the opportunity to apply to take part in a leadership camp in Sydney this April. Much hinges on the quality of applicants but if one of our students is successful we will announce this via the Student and Parent Newsletters.

In line with the Student Council Action Plan we will be organising a session at B-Central for the Student Council to begin developing a Community Project for 2010. More information will be available soon.

One of the roles of Student Council this year specifically deals with reporting back to the community about all the fantastic things that are being done around the college by the Student Council. Look out for the first, student written report in an upcoming Parent News.



Simon Wood



Kathryn Hamilton, Student Council Leaders

Curriculum

The College is proud of its reputation for achieving excellence in learning and teaching and providing students with a range of opportunities to achieve their personal best. However, this can only be achieved when students:

- attend all classes
- come to school every day with a positive approach to their studies
- are prepared to take advantage of the learning opportunities provided in each of their classes
- bring all necessary materials to class
- complete all set homework
- use their non-scheduled class time productively
- seek help from their teachers

The following information is designed to help parents understand various aspects of the VCE and enable you to support your child to achieve success.

Unit Guidelines

For each VCE unit being studied, students have received a Unit Guideline that explains:

- the learning outcomes that must be met for a student to receive Satisfactory (S) for the unit
- the types of assessment tasks (SACs or SATs and examinations) that must be completed by students
- the dates that SACs, SATs and examinations will occur
- essential information on authentication issues like plagiarism and copying
- expectations around homework

Unit Guidelines are signed by the student and kept for future reference. You are encouraged to discuss these with your son or daughter.

Gaining a Satisfactory (S) completion of Outcomes in VCE Units 1-4

Students will be awarded Satisfactory (S) for each VCE unit where their teacher has sufficient evidence that the student has met the required outcomes. The achievement of outcomes will be mainly determined by the student's performance on the SACs or SATs. Teachers will also ensure a range of Learning Activities are provided for students to build their knowledge and skills which are necessary to meet the outcomes.

Reporting Performance on SACs or SATs

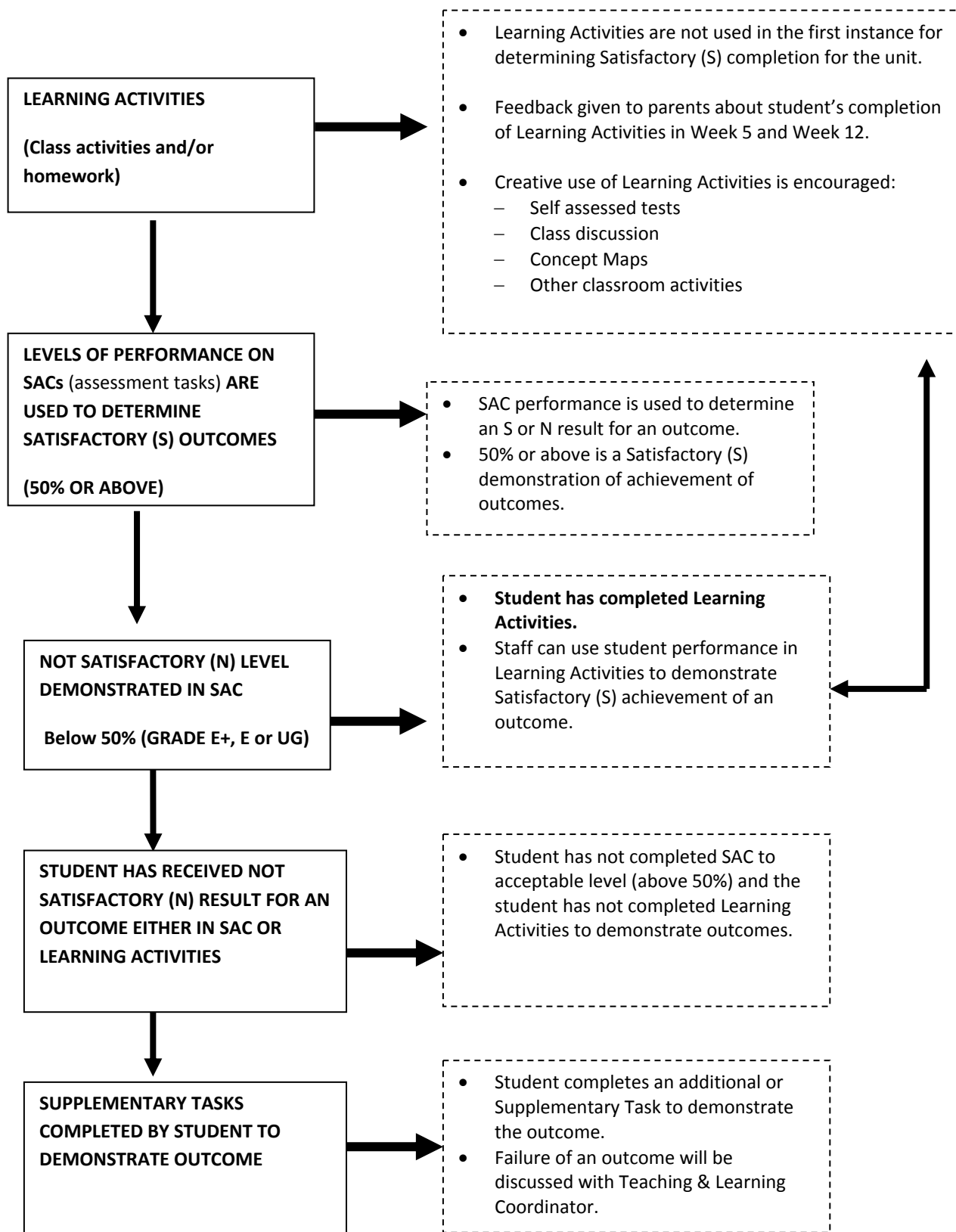
To provide feedback to students and parents on their level of performance in each unit, the College uses a grading scheme that ranges from A+ through to UG.

The awarding of a grade is based on a percentage range which is shown in the following table.

A+	90%-100%
A	80%-89%
B+	75%-79%
B	70%-74%
C+	65%-69%
C	60%-64%
D+	55%-59%
D	50%-54%
E+	45%-49%
E	40%-44%
UG	less than 40%

It is important for parents to note that although we award a grade of E and E+, these do not represent a sufficient level of understanding on their own to pass an outcome. If this occurs, teachers will take into consideration the Learning Activities completed. If a student has not completed the necessary Learning Activities or completed them to a satisfactory standard, students must complete an additional or Supplementary Task to receive an S for the Unit. This process is represented in the diagram over the page.

Procedures for determining Satisfactory (S) completion of Outcomes VCE Units 1-4



NB: Students must also attend classes in order to achieve a Satisfactory (S) result for each outcome.

Failure to attend class can result in a Not Satisfactory (N) result or fail.

S = Satisfactory (Pass) N = Not Satisfactory (Fail)

SAC = School Assessed Coursework

Units 3 & 4

In Units 3 & 4, a student's performance on each of the SACs and SATs contributes to their overall study score that is calculated by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). Study scores are then used by the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) to calculate a student's ATAR score (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank), which is used by tertiary institutions for admission into various courses. It is therefore important that students and parents understand and follow the necessary processes associated with the completion of SACs and SATs.

Semester 1 SAC Calendar 2010

All students studying a Unit 3 and 4 sequence have received a SAC calendar listing all SACs and SATs to be completed in Semester 1. To assist students with planning and organisation parents/guardians should discuss with their student the need to record SAC dates in their student handbook. Many Parents/Guardians also highlight the subjects being studied by their son or daughter and display the calendar on the fridge as an ongoing reminder.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) about SACs or SATs

All students have been provided with the handout "11 FAQs about SACs or SATs". This handout has been designed to provide direction for students around curriculum issues such as authentication, processes to follow if they are absent from a SAC and submission of work for assessment. Please take the time to read these and discuss them with your son or daughter to ensure they understand the information provided. One of the most important areas for parents and students to understand is the processes involved if a student misses a SAC.

Absence from a Unit 3 or 4 SAC

Where a student misses a SAC as a result of a school based activity, students will be allocated a time to reschedule their SAC at the earliest possible time and there is no need for parents to provide documentation. Where a student misses a SAC due to illness it is important to:

- ring your son or daughter's Student Coordinator and speak to them directly on the day of the SAC and explain why the SAC is being missed
- get a medical certificate or appropriate documentation as proof of illness
- on returning to school students see their classroom teacher or Student Coordinator personally to organise a time for the SAC to be rescheduled.

Without appropriate documentation such as a medical certificate the student is in danger of not being awarded a grade for their SAC. If this occurs students can appeal using the following process:

- Within 2 days of returning to school, the student must see their Student Coordinator to collect the necessary form to lodge an appeal.
- This form must be completed and returned to the Student Coordinator within 3 school days.
- All appeals will be referred by the Student Coordinator to the VCE & Special Programs Manager who makes a recommendation to the Assistant Principal regarding whether the work will be scored.
- The outcome of the appeal will be provided to the student in writing.
- A final appeal can be made to the College Principal. Such an appeal must be made in writing within three days of the student receiving advice of the outcome of the original appeal.

Absence from Unit 1 or 2 SAC

Students absent from a Unit 1 and 2 SAC must follow the process below:

- On return to class students must talk to their teacher and organise a rescheduled SAC time.
- Students are given a 'Rescheduled SAC details' form detailing the day, date, time, room, specific instructions and materials for the rescheduled SAC.
- A rescheduled SAC will be awarded a grade providing the absence has been approved by the Student Coordinator and recorded as such.

Progress Reports

Parents/Guardians will receive a Progress Report twice a semester (in the week ending March 19 and the week ending May 21) and a Subject Report at the end of the semester. Progress Reports will provide parents and students with information regarding their student's progress in relation to the completion of Learning Activities, competencies (where a student is completing a VET or VCAL program), understanding of key skills and knowledge, absences and work habits.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher Interviews will be conducted on April 14 and April 19. This will provide an opportunity for parents/guardians and students to talk with teachers about current progress and strategies to support student learning.

Semester Reports

As a part of the reporting process, students completing a Unit 1 and 2 subject will receive a more detailed report at the end of Semesters 1 and 2. Students completing a Unit 3 and 4 subject will receive a report for Semester 1 only.



Paul Seery, VCE and Special Programs Manager

June Examinations for Students Studying Unit 3 and 4 Subjects

Parents and students are reminded that June examinations will be held in the following subjects – Biology, Physics, Accounting, Psychology, Chemistry and Environmental Science.

Students will be issued with an Examination Booklet in May which will detail the Examination timetable for both June and November examinations. This will also be available on the College website. The examination booklet provides students with details of what material is permitted into the examination room and students are requested to familiarise themselves with this.

Special Arrangements for Exams

Students who require **Special Arrangements** for examinations based on medical grounds, a physical disability or a diagnosed learning disability are asked to contact their Student Coordinator immediately. Special Arrangements may include rest breaks, extra writing time, standing and stretching, bringing in sweets for diabetics, use of a scribe. **The closing date for applications for Special Arrangements for all examinations is March 5.** Please note that there is provision for emergency applications for Special Arrangements if a student is unwell on the day of an examination. Parents are urged to contact the college immediately in this event. **UNIT 3 OR UNIT 4 EXAMINATIONS CANNOT BE RESCHEDULED.**



Ian Kellett, Student Coordinator

Student Wellbeing

The Wellbeing Team has once again had a very busy start to the school year. Pathway workshops and class sessions have been delivered, support and counselling is being provided to students for a range of issues, enquiries are being responded to and referrals are being made to DEECD staff and services within the community.

2010 Wellbeing Team and Services

I am delighted to warmly welcome Donna Weightman and Kelvin Curnow to the Wellbeing team, as I am about to commence maternity leave. The Wellbeing team can assist with the full range of personal, physical health, mental health and wellbeing issues including school related issues, depression, anxiety, stress, grief, loss, relationship issues, alcohol & drug issues, sexuality, financial issues, accommodation, and Centrelink. The Wellbeing staff can also link students with the Visiting DEECD counselling staff and families can be referred to a range of community based support services and professionals for health and wellbeing issues.

Students can speak to their Student Coordinator, email counsellor@bssc.edu.au or nurse@bssc.edu.au, or seek a referral from their student Coordinator to make an appointment with a Wellbeing staff member.

The team includes:

Donna Weightman - Student Well-being Coordinator (Student Counsellor) – Monday to Friday

Kelvin Curnow - Chaplain (Student Support and Pastoral Care) – Monday to Friday

Angela Walsh-Edgar - Health Promotions Officer (School Nurse) – Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday am

Angela Casey - Visiting DEECD Social Worker

Sue Inglis - Visiting DEECD Psychologist

Information for families experiencing difficulties paying for textbooks and fees

Where it may be difficult for families to produce one large payment to cover the costs of textbooks and fees, families are encouraged to initially pay for the school textbooks, so that they can be collected and students can have everything they require to start the 2010 school year. Then, if necessary, families can make a payment plan to pay off fees throughout the term, semester or year. Payment plan forms are available from the General Office and can be submitted, with a copy of the student's booklist, to the Finance Office. Payment plans can be set up electronically through any financial institution, Centrelink payments (using a blue Centrepay form), Credit Card or by regular visits to the Finance Office for cash payments, EFTPOS or cheques. Another brief information session on how to complete a Payment Plan form will be held later this term.

Students who are:

- living independently (not with their parents) and experiencing significant financial difficulties
- young carer's (assisting to care for a parent who may receive a disability pension)
- recipients of a Housing or Opportunity Scholarship
- effected by the drought
- effected by the February 2009 fires, or
- refugees

are invited to make an appointment to meet with Kelvin Curnow (Chaplain) for assistance. Additionally, students are encouraged to consider applying for a Housing or Opportunity Scholarship, which are advertised throughout the year, and/or contact a community organisation such as St Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army or Bendigo Uniting Care Outreach for support to help cover educational expenses.

Wellbeing Events

Students living independently (not with their parents), **students who received a Housing or Opportunity Scholarship** and **young carers** (students who play a significant role helping out a relative or friend who has an illness, disability, alcohol or drug problem, or a mental illness) have been invited to a series of morning teas to hear about support available through BSSC and community organisations. We encourage these students to remember that the Wellbeing team are here to support them throughout the year.

Upcoming wellbeing workshop topics include managing stress, improving your sleep and cybersafety Later this term a Sexual Health Awareness Day and Harmony Day will be celebrated.

Why host a Sexual Health Awareness Day at BSSC?

We at BSSC believe that it is important to provide students with a range of information in accordance with the Victorian government guidelines regarding sexuality and sexual health. The term sexuality education reflects the approach our college takes in covering the many areas of this topic, including focusing on love, abstinence, safer sex, respect for others and oneself, diversity, personal rights and responsibilities, relationships and friendships, effective communication, decision making and risk behaviours.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) approaches the sexuality education of your child as a shared responsibility. That is, while it is compulsory for schools to deliver sexuality education within health and physical education subjects, your child's sexuality education is most effective when you are also actively involved. Many parents have found when their child participates in school-based sexuality education, talking about sex-related issues increases between them and their child. Alternatively, many teachers have found children are more likely to participate fully in the program offered at school when the child is comfortable in talking about sex related issues.

The important role you play in your child's sexuality education includes:

- providing the family perspective
- supporting your child's level of comfort in discussing sexuality-related issues
- maintaining an open dialogue with the school about the school-based sexuality education program
- responding positively and supportively to learning opportunities at home

Research tells us children who are well informed and comfortable in talking about sexuality with their parents are the least likely to have intercourse when they are adolescents. Lack of information poses greater risks (Dilorio, C, Resnicow, K et al, 2006; Hutchinson, K, 2002; Jemmott JB, Jemmott LS, 2000). The DEECD believes that the whole school learning approach to

sexuality education has the greatest potential for maximum learning outcomes for your child, equipping them for a healthy and fulfilling adult life. For more information go to:

www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/health/sexuality/forparents.htm

During Sexual Health Awareness Day we are holding a screening of a DVD called "Photograph" for all Year 11 students. Additionally, Bendigo Community Health Services and the Country Awareness Network will have information stands for students at lunchtime.

If you have any questions please contact Angela Walsh-Edgar, Health Promotions Officer.



Renee Carter, Student Wellbeing Coordinator

International Student Program at BSSC

This year our college has thirty three International students - twenty eight from China, two from Germany, one from Thailand, one from Finland and one from Norway. Our links are certainly spreading throughout the world. We welcome all these students to our college and hope that they have a rewarding time with us as well as enriching the lives of our local students and community.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year the college hosted a lunch in Rosalind Park for all our international students and their Homestay families. It was great to meet old friends and welcome new Homestay families to the program. Our new International Student Coordinator, Dan Dwyer, was introduced. One of our year 12 students, Phoebe Rogers, spoke to the group about the meaning and significance of Chinese New Year to the Chinese people. The event received coverage from the local newspapers complete with photographs.

Many positive comments were made about hosting an international student. The college expects that more students will attend our college in the future and we are always looking for new Homestay families to join our program. If you are interested in hosting an international student you can contact our Homestay Coordinator, Chris Laity at the college for an information package.



Students, staff and Homestay parents celebrate the Chinese New Year in Rosalind Park

Scholarship to study at a Chinese University

The Chinese Government is offering 2 scholarships including tuition, materials, accommodation and living allowance for Australian citizens under the age of 25 to study degree programs in eligible Chinese universities from 2010/2011. Applications close on Friday 26 March 2010. If you have someone in the family who is interested, further information is available on <http://en.csc.edu.cn/Laihua> or through the Consul, Mr. Yuntong Wang, by telephone on (03) 9827 6113 or email at education.china@bigpond.com.

This seems a wonderful opportunity for a student to enjoy the reciprocal experience of studying in China.



Dan Dwyer, International Program Coordinator

BELS (Bendigo ESL Learning Support) Homework Centre



BSSC is implementing an innovative homework program for the benefit of students from non-English speaking countries.

Many of these students have come from adverse circumstances and are now experiencing a more peaceful and productive life than in their home countries. The BELS Homework Centre will allow students to find a quiet place for productive study, with access to computers and the Internet, text-based resources and the help of a volunteer tutor.

New Arrivals students from around Bendigo are encouraged to attend BELS, to get into the routine of studying and to help them improve their English, which is so vital to success in secondary schooling.

The BELS program at BSSC is supported by the Loddon Campaspe Centre for Multicultural Services which has sourced volunteer tutors to work with our students. All tutors will be trained through the Centre for Multicultural Youth to ensure that they are equipped to provide the best possible tutoring support for News Arrival ESL learners from our Bendigo secondary schools.



Anna Beilharz,
BELS Program
Coordinator

Homework Centre

BELS

Bendigo ESL Learning Support
at Bendigo Senior Secondary College



Where: Bendigo Senior Secondary College, Room P03

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3.30 – 5.30 pm (in Term Times)

Starting: Tuesday 16 February 2010

Who For: New Arrivals Secondary School students in Years 7-12

Why: To give school students a safe, quiet place to study, to get help with their homework so they can *get the best out of their education*

STAFF:

- It is co-ordinated by Anna Beilharz, a qualified English as a Second Language teacher from Bendigo Senior Secondary College.
- A Karen-speaking Multicultural Education Aide will *assist students and parents with communication and understanding.*
- Trained volunteers will also help with tutoring support.



OTHER INFORMATION:

- Snacks will be provided.
- Students will have access to computers and other ESL education support resources.

CONTACT:

BSSC by phone: 5443 1222

Anna Beilharz by email: beilharz.anna@BSSC.EDU.AU



Supported by Bendigo South East Secondary College, Weeroona College Bendigo,
Centre for Multicultural Youth and Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services



BIHC - Bendigo Indigenous Homework Centre



Uncle Brien Nelson with Homework Centre students Grace Owen and Mitchell Old

Bendigo Indigenous Homework Centre

So much more than help with your homework

The Bendigo Indigenous Homework Centre offers individualised learning support to all indigenous students. It celebrates Aboriginal Culture, promotes leadership and sporting opportunities and has close links with the Bendigo Indigenous community.

In 2009 there was a 22% attendance improvement of Koorie students and all 2009 Year 11 students returned to study either at BSSC or elsewhere. Our 3 Year 12 students Meaghan Carter, Mitchell Old and Jacinta Lovett have all secured places for further training and study. Meaghan leaves for the Australian Navy next week, Mitchell is studying at William Anglis and Jacinta is studying Koorie Primary Health at Bendigo TAFE College. The BIHC is very proud of these students achievements and wish them well.

This year, as well as 14 returning Year 12 students we are pleased to welcome 18 new Year 11 students. BIHC Coordinator, Heather Jones, is currently organising Tutors for students under the WSTA Wannik Senior Tutorial scheme, and Parents will be receiving a form to be returned to school regarding this. The BIHC welcomes Sam Nolan, the Koorie Engagement and Support Officer who will work with the team on Tuesdays and Fridays.

On Friday students were invited to share lunch at the Homework Centre and we outlined opportunities for another exciting year. We will be embracing cultural pride, resilience and inspiration as part of this year's NAIDOC theme "Unsung heroes- Closing the Gap by leading their way."

Parents are advised that the BIHC operates every Wednesday from 3.30 -5.30pm in P3. Your student will receive afternoon tea and assistance with homework. Encourage your students to come along and make homework stress free. Students from 7-10 Secondary Colleges are also invited and encouraged to attend.

Heather Jones BIHC Coordinator can be contacted on 54431222 or jones.heather@bssc.edu.au if you would like more information.

Heather Jones, BIHC Coordinator

Pathways and Careers

A warm welcome everyone for 2010. For any Career information or advice on University, TAFE, further study, choosing VCE subjects or courses please come down to the Pathways office at the bottom of G Block and see Mark Zulian, Greg Sturges or Sasha Peppinck – the BSSC Careers and Pathways Team. All students are encouraged to visit the team during the year for advice and resources. Appointments can be made for individual consultations with students and/or parents. The Pathways office is available to students and parents from 8.45am – 4.30pm or later by appointment. Books, pamphlets, university and TAFE handbooks, careers based computer programs, VTAC and TAFE Guides and DVD's are available for your use. Additional information is also provided to students via the weekly Student News in their email.

2009 Graduates Tertiary Destinations

It is always pleasing to see students achieving their desired pathway, regardless of whether it is employment, training or further education. Last year's graduates seeking a Tertiary Education pathway again showed that they had considered their options carefully and were realistic in their choices.

This year there were two main VTAC offer rounds, with 2 periods of supplementary offers, where institutions can contact VTAC applicants to make direct offers (late February). In the First Round of VTAC offers, 65% of students were offered their first preference, with 88% being offered one of their top 3 preferences. These figures will change when Second Round and Supplementary Offers data is included (not currently available).

Whilst the percentage of students applying for Tertiary education places hasn't changed much over the last few years, nor the number of offers, the destinations for students certainly have.

With the uncertainty created by the proposed changes to the Youth Allowance, it is not surprising to see some shifts away from metropolitan and other regional institutions and an enormous growth in applications to La Trobe University Bendigo. This certainly is not the only reason for the spectacular growth in interest towards La Trobe University Bendigo. The courses offered speak very well for themselves. However a cursory glance at the figures below would be of interest, if not concern, to some institutions if the trend were to be repeated across the state.

1st round offers only

	2009	2008	2007
La Trobe University Bendigo	173	139	142
RMIT	16	22	22
University of Ballarat	6	18	18

Interestingly, Swinburne and Monash University figures are unchanged whereas University of Melbourne's offers have increased. The full picture of how many students accepted or deferred their offers will be available from VTAC at mid-year.

BSSC Careers and Pathways Website

The BSSC Careers and Pathways website is an invaluable resource in planning for your future. It contains links to all Australian (and International) University websites, VTAC, Interstate organisations, Defence Forces and various Australian careers websites, employment information and much more. The Careers and Pathways website is available by clicking "Students" on the www.bssc.edu.au then click on "Pathways". There are resources and information for parents and students regarding all post secondary options. There is also a general overview of suggested steps in assisting to plan for your student's future career located at – "Students" – "Pathways" – "Choosing a Career".

Make a note to regularly check the website www.bssc.edu.au/public/students/careers

Year 12 News

It's not too early to start thinking seriously about 2011! What are your alternatives?

- **University** Degree or Double degree (eg Bachelor of Design - 3 years, or Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science - 4 years).
- **TAFE Institute** Certificate, Diploma or Advanced Diploma (eg Certificate IV in Electronic Publishing – 1 year, Diploma of Applied Science (Conservation Ecology) - 2 years, or Advanced Diploma in Computer Systems Engineering - 2 years).
- Study at a **Private College** eg sports therapy, beauty therapy and photography.
- An **Apprenticeship or Traineeship or Full/part time Employment**
- Take a **year off** from study (ie defer for a year) and start study in 2012.

Many university and TAFE courses select students solely on the basis of their Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank (ENTER) which will be known as the ATAR from this year. Some courses in the areas of Art, Graphics, Design, Music, Performing Arts, Chiropractic/Osteopathy, Medicine, Journalism, Education and Architecture use other criteria in addition to

(or instead of) your ENTER/ATAR such as, an interview, folio, selection kit, test, supplementary application form, workshop or an audition. Other courses require students to sit the UMAT Test such as Medicine, Surgery, Physiotherapy and Dentistry. If you are interested in any of these you need to start making inquiries now about the selection criteria so that you can begin preparing appropriately. Visit the Pathways Office to obtain further information. Information on scaling of subjects is contained on the college website and the VTAC website as are all publications and bulletins as well as **Courselink**. The student module of Courselink allows students to produce their own versions of a Course Scan and is an invaluable tool in VCE and higher education course planning.

Course Scans

Course Scans available on request and provide students with information on Tertiary courses (Uni and TAFE in Victoria) according to the VCE subjects they are studying, along with ATARs/ENTERS required and other information. Course Scan forms are available from the Pathways office and are returned to students via Pathway Advisors.

Events

A range of events, speakers and opportunities will be available for students during the year including: Defense Forces Careers Team, VTAC information session (for parents and students), Accommodation Expo, UMAT Info Session and Themed Careers Weeks. Keep an eye out on student bulletins and parent newsletters for these.

Meet Melbourne University

Information Evening for students (Years 10-12) and parents where University of Melbourne staff will talk about:

- The courses available, structure and pathways
- Entry requirements and pre-requisites
- Scholarships and Access Melbourne
- Transitions issues and Student Support services
- Accommodation options
- How to become involved with the university while still at school
- Questions and answers

When: Wednesday March 10, 6.30 – 8.00pm

Where: The Capital Theatre, Bendigo Bank Theatre Room, 50 View Street, Bendigo

Registration: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne



RMIT Folio Preparation and Career Discovery Courses

These courses are running throughout the year and have a variety of options available.

Further Information: www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au (click on the short course guide document link).

Cost: \$320 (3 sessions) to \$630 (15 sessions) covers materials (unless specified).

GAP Year Expo

When: Thursday March 18, 7.00pm

Where: Marian Centre, Catholic College Bendigo

Certificate II in Animal Studies

Do you want to work hands-on with animals? Do you want a nationally-recognised animal care qualification? RSPCA Victoria, in conjunction with Victoria University, is offering an opportunity for students to gain a Certificate II in Animal Studies. Expert staff who work in these areas, will deliver quality units of study. Practical, hands-on skills will be taught in a 'state of the art' training venue. Participants will be assessed via completion of online tasks and skill demonstrations, that is written and verbal assignments, practical work, class participation and projects and or written tests. Four days practical work placement over four weekends must be completed and you must be assessed as competent in all areas.

Further Information: http://www.rspcavic.org/rspca_services/education_certII.htm If you wish to be a part of this program please download the [expression of interest form](#), fill it in and return it as per the instructions.

Cost: \$532.00 (\$105 for students who hold a valid concession card).



Mark Zulian, Careers and Pathways Coordinator

MIPs

Introduction

The MIPs team welcome all new and returning students to the 2010 school year!

For those of you who are not aware, MIPs stands for Managed Individual Pathways and the team comprises Lorelle Pearse, Helen Martin and Marla Carlier and we are located in G Block, Room G17. The MIPs office has an open door policy and is equipped with a Jobs Board, computer, telephone and internet access, newspapers, privacy, printing facilities, great student resources and self help facilities, time out or time to chat. We welcome past and present students looking for support.

Most importantly MIPs is a team whose combined and proven experience has given so many BSSC students the opportunity to explore their options and move forward in all kinds of directions. We really look forward to working with you, so call into the office at anytime to see us or make an appointment.

Our support extends across a wide range of services and we can help your students with:

- Developing and planning your career, and support to achieve their goals
- Individualised mentoring, motivation and guidance to support them through school
- Employment – casual, part time or full time
- Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- Tertiary, further education or training options
- Information for short courses such as Safe Food Handling, Responsible Serving of Alcohol or Construction Induction
- Referrals to local youth and community services, Centrelink access and onsite visiting job services
- Or maybe you just have a concern or question – if we can't answer it we'll help you find someone who will!

Current news

MIPs are organising a **Responsible Service of Alcohol Certificate** course. This is being held at the College, from 4.00 to 8.00pm on March 1st at a cost of \$80. Supper included! This certificate is a legal requirement to work in any establishment if you are serving alcohol ie. Nightclub, bar, hotel, liquor store, bottle shop. For bookings, call into MIPs Office (G17). This is a great opportunity to add to a resume and enhance prospects for casual work.

MIPs currently has a range of apprenticeships and school based apprenticeship opportunities available:

- The hospitality industry around Bendigo is booming and a local provider is looking for some prospective Apprentice Chefs. If you are interested please call in with a resume to see one of the team.
- We are also looking for students to complete a School Based Apprenticeship/Traineeship (part time work, part time school) in the areas of hospitality, administration and reception/retail, with a well respected local organisation. Again, if you are interested, please call in and see the team.
- The MIPs team constantly liaise with local job providers so if you are interested in a particular career or pathway, call in and let us know you're looking. We may be able to help you on your way!

Don't forget about booking into our Workshop – Resume Riter – come and learn how to make the most of this document and what it's all about.

We look forward to catching up with students this term!



Lorelle Pearse, MIPS Coordinator

Sport

Who to see

I am Vicki Poyser the Sports Coordinator and I work part time at BSSC with the days present fluctuating depending on the sporting events calendar. My office is located in the Gaol in the Governor's Office and my email contact is poyser.vicki@bssc.edu.au. A weekly calendar of my days at school is posted on the door and the General Office will be able to direct you to my whereabouts if you can't locate me.

What is available?

Sport at BSSC primarily follows the **Victorian Secondary School Sports calendar** with events for BDSCSC (Bendigo District), Northern Zone and VSSSA competitions. Many teams and individuals make it to VSSSA state level. Individuals are also eligible for **VSSSA State team selection**. In 2009 several students were selected in VSSSA state teams including Athletics, Baseball, Cross Country and Orienteering.

BSSC has participated in events outside the VSSSA Calendar such as **Melbourne Storm Rugby League Gala, Touch Football Victoria**, Australian **Mountain Biking Schools Championships**, Victorian **Cycling Schools Champs** as part of the Jayco Sun Tour, **Volleyball State and National Schools Cup**, **Herald Shield Football**, Calder Cup **Girls Football** and **Boys Netball**, Victorian **Athletics Knockout Competition** and Victorian **Rowing Champs** to name a few.

Where to find information

The "sporting grapevine" at BSSC includes:

Student News - with brief reminders of upcoming events

Webpage - SPORTING section on BSSC homepage under News and Events

Sports Noticeboards - in the Library Window and entry to the Canteen & Gym

Parent Newsletter - Sporting Reports in each edition

How to get involved

Students "Sign up" for the sports you are interested in by emailing me poyser.vicki@bssc.edu.au and making sure you attend selection trials and information sessions as required. Several students have become involved in Sport by acting as officials either as part of their VET Sport and Recreation course or as a volunteer. We welcome interested students to register their intent to volunteer.

Celebrating success

On a regular basis many students achieve success in their chosen sport outside of school competition and previously BSSC has recognised such achievements in the "Star Performers" section of the newsletter and around the college noticeboards. This year there is a Star Performers link on the BSSC homepage (which includes an archive of Sports Award winners) and we welcome information about students' achievements.

Josh Dundas and Elise Bottcher - Golden Goggles

Josh and Elise won the traditional event which was held at the Community Challenge as part of "Blast Off" week. They are now preparing for the BDSCSC Swim Carnival.

2nd & 3rd place went to:

Boys: **James Hampson, Toby Goss**

Girls: **Kathryn Gray, Hayley Trounson**

James Robertson - Orienteering

James was selected in the Australian Schoolboys Orienteering team after outstanding performances for the VSSSA State Orienteering team.

Kirrily Burnett - Athletics

Congratulations to Kirrily who has continued to achieve several victories in middle distance over the summer break including a win at the Maryborough Gift. A lot of training hours at Tom Flood have certainly paid off.

Tanya Higgs - Athletics

Tanya showed her versatility as an athlete when she competed at the Nationals in the Heptathlon and won a Bronze medal.

Term 1 Sports

Interested in representing **BSSC** in the sports listed below email: poyser.vicki@bssc.edu.au **ACT NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!**

SPORT	EVENT	WHERE	WHEN
Swimming and Diving	BDSCSC Swimming Carnival Northern Zone VSSSA	Bendigo Swan Hill MSAC	Friday, Feb 26 Wednesday, March 17 Thursday, April 15
Cricket	Vs Girton (Boys) Northern Zone Country Semis Boys and Girls	Bendigo Bendigo Swan Hill	March 1 Through March
Golf	BDSCSC Senior Boys and Girls	Eaglehawk Golf Club	Friday, March 5
Rowing	Schools Regatta	Barwon River Geelong	Thursday, March 11
Rugby League	Melbourne Storm GALA 7's Day and 13s Carnival	Melbourne	Tuesday, March 16 Thursday, May 13
Mt Bike	National School event Note: Depending on fire danger	Thredbo	March 18 to 21
Touch Footy	Touch Victoria U18 Schools Comp	Melbourne	Friday, March 19
Lawn Bowls	Northern Zone Country Boys, Girls and Mixed triples team	Golden Square Bowling Club	Friday, March 19



Vicki Poyser, Sport Coordinator



Family Education Service

Re-Partnering with Children Workshop



Stepfamilies and Blended Families are the fastest growing family types in Australia. These families confront a range of complex issues for adults and children.

This 2 hour workshop will focus on information and understanding the roles and responsibilities in a stepfamily and how to support children who are in a stepfamily. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn from others in stepfamilies about what has worked for them and their family.

This workshop is suitable for:

- Newly partnered couples wanting information about stepfamilies
- Couples living in a stepfamily
- Extended family wishing to support a stepfamily
- Anyone working in the role of supporting stepfamilies

Where: 176-178 McCrae Street Bendigo
When: Tuesday 23rd March
Time: 7pm – 9pm (light supper provided)
Facilitators: Amanda Lomax & Prue Robertson
Cost: No Cost (Please arrange your own childcare.)

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
 To register your attendance or for further information please contact:
 Prue Robertson or Amanda Lomax on 54 381300

relating to people

CentaCare, 62 Baxter St Bendigo 3550 Telephone 54381300 Postal address PO Box 222, Bendigo 3550

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

Seasons for Growth Children's Program



"The program uses the metaphor of the seasons to explain change, loss and grief. It is based on the belief that grief is normal and can be a valuable part of life".

Seasons for Growth assists young people and adults to understand and manage the changes they experience when a significant loss occurs, such as death of a family member or friend, family separation, moving schools and other significant life changes.

When: Commencing Thursday 22nd April (8 week program)
Time: 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Where: CentaCare 176 -178 McCrae St Bendigo
Cost: \$20

For enquiries/ enrolment contact
 Narelle Williams on (03) 544381300 or
 Email: narelle.williams@centacare-sandhurst.org.au

relating to people

61 Baxter St Bendigo 3550 T: (03) 544381300; F: (03) 54417713 narelle@centacare-sandhurst.org.au www.centacare-sandhurst.org.au

Understanding Adolescents Workshop



Guiding your child through early adolescence can be a challenging task!!

If you are a parent of an adolescent, then you may wish to join other parents in this workshop. Gain information and understanding of some of the developmental changes and learn some strategies to help with the challenges of this stage of development.

Where: CentaCare, 176 - 178 McCrae St
When: Wednesday 3rd March
Time: 7pm-9pm
Facilitators: Jeremy Weinstock & Prue Robertson

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
 To register your attendance or for further information please contact
 Jeremy or Narelle on 54381300.

relating to people

61 Baxter St Bendigo Vic 3550; 03 54438 1300; F: 03 5441 7713; narelle@centacare-sandhurst.org.au www.centacare-sandhurst.org.au

BENDIGO UFS PHARMACIES

Building a healthier community

Bendigo UFS Pharmacies School Partnership & Club Sponsorship Programs are positive initiatives directed at assisting your school or club.

The programs are designed to provide your school or club with a recurring source of sponsorship income and is based on you and other members supporting Bendigo UFS.

How does it work?
 Bendigo UFS Pharmacies will donate 50% of the annual membership fee (new and renewals) back to your school or club. Each year a sponsorship cheque is sent based on the number of members who join or renew their membership with Bendigo UFS Pharmacies and nominate your school or club.

How do I participate?

1. Become a member of Bendigo UFS Pharmacies.
2. Nominate your school or club on your membership form.
3. Encourage all friends and family to do the same.
4. Sit back and watch the sponsorship cheques come in.