MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students, Parents and Staff

VCE Course Selection for 2014
The blocked Course Selection Sheet is based on our students’ initial subject preferences to ensure a minimum of subject clashes. We are finalising it the last week of term ready for students to fill in the first week after the vacation. This provides the opportunity for students to fine-tune their initial preferences and make an alternative choice if they happen to have a clash of subjects because of the way they have been blocked on the timetable. In 2013, we are recommending to Year 11 students that they adopt one of the following methods to assist them with their selection-

1. **Themed Learning Program** (Targeted towards particular tertiary courses and careers)
   The course selection sheet is arranged horizontally in several themes to build on the basic English and Maths requirements. Students select 3 subjects from the range available in each theme. We are still in the process of finalising these themes, but the following will give you an approximate idea of what they will look like.
   (a) Science/Technology: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Psychology, Specialist Maths (VVLN)*, several VET Technology subjects.
   (b) Performing Arts: Music, VCE Dance, VET Dance, VET Film and TV Acting.
   (c) Health and Recreation: P.E., Outdoor Education, Health, Food Technology, VET Sport and Recreation, VET Community Services.
   (d) Commerce: Legal Studies, Business Management, I/T, VET I/T, Accounting (D Ed).
   (e) Humanities/Art: Geography, History, German, Japanese, Other Language, Studio Art, Art (D/Ed), Visual Communication.
   *Ask Mr James for an explanation sheet, if you are interested.

2. **Baccalaureate Program**
   In this option, students deliberately select a broad range of subjects to fit into the following internationally-recognised Baccalaureate structure - English (or Literature), Maths Methods, a Language (German, Japanese or other), a Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Psychology) or a Humanities/Art subject, plus in Year 12 the new subject ‘Extended Investigation’.
   This option is particularly suitable for students who are in the Accelerated pathway as they study additional VCE subjects and, therefore, have more flexibility in their choice.
   The Department is currently considering the introduction, in 2015, of a Baccalaureate Certificate for Year 12 students, in addition to the VCE Certificate.

   In both of these programs, students select their sixth Year 11 subject to suit their particular interests.

3. **General Program**
   Students select the subjects they are good at and/or enjoy the most.
Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
These are held in the middle of each semester to give parents an opportunity to hear from their student and his/her teachers an update on the progress the student is making in each of their Semester Units. The mid-semester time-slot allows the teacher and student to complete sufficient assessment tasks to gain a realistic measure of progress but, at the same time, allow enough time in the semester for any shortfalls to be properly rectified before the final assessment.

Thank you to the many parents and students who attended recently. We trust the discussions were informative and helpful so that you can continue to assist your student with their studies for the rest of the year.

If you were unable to attend, and would like some information from a specific teacher, please ‘phone the office and ask for the particular teachers to ‘phone you. May I encourage you to plan to attend the next set of interviews just before Easter next year. These occasions are far too valuable to miss unless something significant prevents you attending.

Harvey Wood
Principal