A very warm welcome back to all staff, students and parents. We hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break, despite the cold weather, and are ready to tackle the new term. Term 2 had a number of highlights and it is an opportune time to reflect on the learning and extra opportunities afforded to our students.

We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful school that provides students, not only with high quality teaching and learning programs, but also a wide range of opportunities to keep students engaged at school.

**Congratulations**

**State Cross Country Selection**

Congratulations to Marcus Evans in Year 9 who has been selected in the School Sport Victoria State Team for Cross Country, competing in the Australian Cross Country Championships in Melbourne from the 28th to the 31st August, 2015.

It has been a great performance by Marcus following a selection process that began in June to make the final team. The team comprises students from all over Victoria. Marcus competed in a series of competitions conducted by School Sport Victoria to gain selection in the SSV State Team. Many past SSV team members have gone on to compete at national and international competitions including Olympic Games, World Championships and Commonwealth Games. We wish Marcus all the best in the upcoming championships.

**Rural Ambassadors Program**

Congratulations to Chloe Freeman of Year 11 who has been selected to participate in the Rural Youth Ambassadors Program for this year.

Ambassadors are involved in a range of activities including:
- attending face to face forums organized throughout the year;
- participating within regular online forum;
- participating in a local community organization;
- participating in rural education discussions throughout the year;
- attending other relevant events such as participation in government reviews, relevant working groups and committees, etc.

The aims of the program are to provide:
- A greater voice and visibility for young people in rural and remote Victoria; increase participation in education and youth public policy impacting on rural and remote Victoria;
- Increase public and political awareness of the unique challenges and opportunities impacting on the learning opportunities and outcomes of young people in rural and remote Victoria.
- Identify and showcase examples of young Victorians thriving in rural and remote communities.
- Strengthen existing initiatives to support the learning needs of young people in rural and remote Victoria.
Highlights at our Campus

**The Year 9 Future Makers Program** in Collaboration with Bogong Outdoor Education Centre has enabled students to partake in personal learning around areas such as their strengths, values and learning styles as well as learning to work collaboratively in a group situation.

The program incorporated a 12-day off campus experience at Mt Bogong which has been the highlight of the program thus far. Students are now starting to move on to the second phase of the program which includes community based impact projects. The theme of sustainability is a key focus and we look forward to the range of projects that students will look to work on in semester two.

**The Alpine School Campus of the School for Student Leadership** in Term 1. Since their return this term they have worked together on completing their Community Learning Project (CLP). This is a book to celebrate the Anzac Centenary.

The students have interviewed a range of local veterans and incorporated these interviews into a book that also chronicles the major conflicts that Australia has been involved in. We look forward to the launch of this book once the publishing stage has been completed.

**Term 2 has had a big focus on careers for students in Years 9 right through to Year 12.** Many opportunities have been offered in order for students to start to gain more direction about possible pathways into the future. This term we will commence course selection and course counselling for 2016, this being the focus for Pathways sessions. We also have a number of parent information evenings coming up – see below for more details.

**Examinations for Year 10 and 11**

Students have been an excellent learning experience for all. Explicit instruction around effective study techniques, examination preparation and completion has taken place in Pathways sessions. Students will undertake a reflection on their preparation and achievement in exams in order to set goals for the coming semester. Elevate education is returning on the 26th August to run further sessions with senior students:

- **Current VCE students** (including Yr10’s doing a VCE study) will participate in a session called “Ace your Exams” – further tips for the upcoming end of year exams, particularly for those doing a Year 12 study

**Year 10 students** had a number of opportunities including a week either on work experience or at the Melbourne Camp.

In Week 6 of this term they will swap and participate in the alternate activity. Students are encouraged to start organising their work experience placement and/or camp payments.

**Big Brekky** is a weekly highlight with staff arriving early every Friday morning to provide a cooked breakfast – bacon and egg rolls, pancakes and cereal – for students.

Most weeks we are serving in excess of 180 students across 5-12 and the mornings have also become a social get together. There is a great ‘feel’ to the kitchen as kids from all ages gather together for brekky and a friendly chat each week.

**Sports Program**

Students continue to excel in the College’s Sporting Program – this included the College as well as regional level cross country events, end of term sports, girls football, just to mention a few.

We look forward to sending a number of other successful teams through to the next level in the coming semester.

Our senior, intermediate and Year 7 footballers, senior and junior soccer team and intermediate netballers have all made it through to the next level so we wish them all the best.
Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards

Students in Years 10 and 12 have been provided with information about the Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards.

These awards recognise students who demonstrate leadership and teamwork within both the school and the broader local community. At the same time, they recognise those who display strong values, such as doing one’s best, respect for others and “mateship”, characteristics that are integral to Australian Society.

Students are encouraged to collect a nomination form from their Year Level Coordinator (Mr Fitzpatrick and Mr O’Brien) and to submit this early next term, to be in the running for this prestigious award.

Nomination forms can also be downloaded at http://www.adflongtanawards.gov.au/resources.asp

Students are encouraged to check their school email for further details.

Uniform

At Yarrawonga College we set high expectations for all students. One of the areas where we set these high expectations is in school uniform. Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform at all times. In circumstances where this is not possible, please provide a note explaining when they will be back in full school uniform.

Girls Winter Uniform:
Jade and navy jacket with College logo
Jade and navy windcheater with College logo
Jade and navy polo shirt with College logo
Jade, navy and white tartan skirt with fitted white shirt
Navy pants – tailored or track pant option (no stripes or Jeanie pants)
Black shoes or plain runners

Boys Winter Uniform:
Jade and navy jacket with College logo
Jade and navy windcheater with College logo
Jade and navy polo shirt with College logo
Navy shorts (no markings)
Navy pants – tailored or track pant option (no stripes or Jeanie pants)
Black shoes or plain runners

With the colder weather starting to approach we urge all families to ensure that your child has the College windcheater/woollen jumper and appropriate pants and or (winter skirt).

All College uniform pieces are available from Judds Mensland. You may be able to purchase navy pants from other local suppliers.

Homework Club

The 9-12 Library has been allocated as a Homework club/area for students every lunchtime and teacher supervision is provided to allow students to catch up on work, or simply complete their homework whilst at school.

If your child is having difficulty completing all set tasks due to external commitments, then we really encourage them to come along and complete their work at lunchtime.

June/July Study Break

Thanks to all those staff who gave up time in the holidays to run additional Year 12 classes.

We encourage parents to monitor, support and assist your Year 12 student to commence their revision for each study to date. Students should be completing summaries in all studies for all topics and looking to consolidate their understanding through the completion of past exam papers, textbook questions and other tasks. This is an ongoing process for the last 12 weeks left of Year 12 classes!