Welcome back, and welcome to our new families.

Over the recent holiday time, Dr Kevin Donnelly, (a senior research fellow at the Australian Catholic University and Director of Education Standards Institute) wrote about our secular society and said: “even though Christianity is a central part of Australia’s history and culture, the argument is that we are a multicultural, secular society and that religion is irrelevant” and teaching of religion in our schools is not to be encouraged especially here in Victoria, according to our Government. The Australian Education Union argues that “public education is secular” and that there must be “freedom from religion in teaching programs.” This is despite the fact that this country is founded on Christianity. He says that: “It’s true Australia is a secular society with a division between church and state, but the reality is that we, like Britain, are a Christian nation where religion underpins much of who and what we are.” Kevin gives as an example the Preamble to the Australian Constitution which includes the words “humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God,” and again, “that Parliaments around Australia begin with the Lord’s Prayer.” There is much more he has to say about this, but I am just introducing you to his thoughts before tackling our more local issues as Catholic schools.

Ultimately we are a secular society and religion plays a very small role, if any, in Australia. (See The Sun 19 January 2016 for the full article.)

How does this thinking apply to our Catholic schools since we are funded for the purpose of teaching our Religion so as to support our parents in raising their children in the practice of the faith?

This secular thinking that exists in our society has also influenced our Catholic families in the practice of the faith or commitment to the Sunday Eucharist. Their expectation for their children in regards to Sacraments is so important, yet their absence from the faith community is very noticeable. Dare I say that even among our Catholic teachers, there is no longer the same practice of their faith or commitment to the Sunday Eucharist. Thus both the models of parent and teacher in this no longer exist for our children.

You have heard people say things like: “you don’t have to go to church to pray” or “God is everywhere, so why church?”, “on the weekend we have our children’s sporting events”, “It’s the only time we have as a family because of work and many other things happening”, “Mass is boring”, “I don’t understand the new text”, “music is dull”, “the priest talks too long”, “they’re all hypocrites’ at church” etc.

When it comes to the Sacraments, it is “so important”, but it is not important enough to be there at church on some sort of regular basis. If we are lucky, there may be about 10 to 15% of school families who see inside the church until it is Sacrament time, and then the numbers increase for a short time. I keep asking myself, what is important about the Sacraments?

Well, not unlike our Australian history, the Eucharist is Who and What we are. Vatican 2 says it is the source and summit of our lives. It is also what Australia is founded on – the Irish Catholic tradition.

I don’t believe Catholic families have lost their faith, but I do believe that our secular society has become an important influence on family life. No one can change this except families themselves. Only families can choose what is important to them and then strive to live that in their lives.

This new Year of Mercy gives us the opportunity to reflect on our lives and ask, how important is it to enter into God’s Kingdom and not our secular Kingdom? Jesus said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to make their way into the Kingdom of God.” (Luke 18:24)

Taken from Fr Julian’s homily at the Opening Mass on 9 February.
Pope Francis has declared 2016 The Holy Year of Mercy. The Holy Year of Mercy is both a blessing and a challenge. We are blessed with this opportunity to renew and deepen our faith in our merciful God and blessed in the knowledge that God’s mercy is constant. We are challenged to take up the opportunity, not only to learn anew the depths of God’s mercy and love, but to recognise our own need for mercy. We are challenged to find ways in which we can be merciful to others and help bring God’s mercy to the world. Pope Francis has made a special mention of the way in which our reflections on mercy can enrich our Lenten journey, which recently began on Ash Wednesday, 10 February. Our school community all participated in House Groups in Ash Wednesday paraliturgies. The ashes are a concrete reminder of our need for God’s mercy and compassion. As Archbishop Hart says in his Lenten Pastoral Letter, a deep acceptance of our sinfulness is ‘the critical first step’. During the Lenten journey, then, we are called to repent and ‘open ourselves to the grace of God’. In this Holy Year of Mercy, we are reminded that we are also called to be merciful, to be the face of mercy in concrete ways to those we meet.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS AND INVESTITURE
It was very pleasing to see a large number of parents present for the Opening School Mass and Investiture on Tuesday, 9 February. Thank you to our celebrants, Father Julian Langridge and Father Dishan Candappa and our Director of Education in Faith, Michael Gartland for all the behind the scenes work in planning the Mass. At the conclusion of the liturgy, the Investiture Ceremony took place, and student leaders were presented with their badges of office for 2016. Thank you to Assistant Principal Staff and Administration, David White for organising this aspect. Dr William Keane, Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning, made presentations to our Top Performing students from the Class of 2015 and also to Katerina Kristo who will have her Year 12 work displayed at the VCAA Top Designs at the Melbourne Museum.

ENROLMENT 2017
A reminder that enrolments for Year 7 2017 close on Friday, 26 February. This is particularly important for current families, who sometimes forget to enrol siblings, and expect a place to be available after applications have closed and the enrolment process has been completed. Our final school tour before enrolments close for 2017 will be Wednesday, 24 February. Bookings are essential – please see the Emmaus website for further details.

CAMPS / RETREATS
I farewelled students departing on the Year 7 Orientation Camps to Rawson, and visited the Year 12 Retreats in the Yarra Valley and the Year 11 Seminar Day on Friday. These
are all very important events on the school calendar, and I trust that students gained a great deal from the experience. More detailed reports on these activities will be included in the next Newsletter.

OTHER RECENT EVENTS
February is traditionally a very busy month of the school calendar and this year has been no exception, with almost an event each evening. Thank you to the parents who attended the recent Year 7 and Year 9 Parent Meetings. Such meetings give parents the opportunity to learn more about the school programs and policies, and importantly the opportunity to meet with staff, particularly Pastoral Teachers.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND
This information is included elsewhere in the newsletter, but I wish to draw your attention to it. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) has changed to a Term 1 application process and payment cycle from 2016. The changed timing of the program provides a better alignment with school budgeting and administrative processes and will give families certainty at the beginning of the year regarding CSEF eligibility. Applications for the CSEF program are open from the commencement of Term 1, 2016, helping to ensure that all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities. More information can be found at the CSEF website www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

POSITIVE CHOICES – DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM
Drug education programs in Catholic schools are underpinned by evidence-based research.

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of NSW, commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Health, has developed the Positive Choices online drug prevention portal.

The Positive Choices portal was launched on 6 December 2015 and is now freely accessible to schools, teachers, parents, and students across Australia at www.positivechoices.org.au.

The portal has been developed with the National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University in consultation with teachers, parents and students.

Positive Choices provides a central access point for school-based drug prevention resources and information linked to the Australian curriculum.

The Positive Choices portal enables parents and teachers to provide credible evidence-based information on illicit drugs to students including how to approach conversations with young people and when and how to intervene across the school years. While always a difficult topic to raise with teenagers, I would recommend parents explore the website and utilise strategies suggested.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
The first meeting of the Parents and Friends Association at Emmaus for 2016 was held on 10 February. The primary purposes of the association are to link parents through a small number of social activities, and secondly for parents to assist the school when, and if they are available. The only way this can be successful is for parents to become involved. Thank you to the many parents who attended – and who have already assisted our school community this year.

YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAY & FAMILY FUN DAY
There were many smiles on the faces of students (and parents) on the Year 7 Orientation Day.

The next date to put in your diary is the Year 7 Family Fun Day, which will take place on Sunday, 6 March. This event is very popular, with well over 200 attending in 2014 and 2015. Parent Peter Ryan puts in an enormous amount of effort in planning the success of the day. We ask all Year 7 families to give consideration in attending.

PARENT FORUM
Parent Forums are held once per term during terms 1, 2 and 3. These forums are divided into two parts. The first is an update of recent school activities and initiatives with the opportunity for parent feedback. The second is a keynote speaker on a relevant topic. The first of the Parent Forums for 2016 will be held on Monday, 7 March at 7.30pm in the Bill Holligan Performing Arts Centre at Vermont South. The keynote speaker will be from the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation and issues associated with gambling and teenagers will be discussed. The goal is to limit the Parent Forum to one hour.
PARENT PROTOCOLS
Please be aware for many reasons (primarily Duty of Care to Students) parents are not permitted in student areas during the school day. Parents are welcome at Reception or Student Services if they require assistance. It should be noted that if you report to Reception or Student Services you should not immediately expect that a member of the teaching staff will be able to meet with you. Teaching staff have many commitments throughout the day, so it is essential that a meeting is pre-arranged at a mutually convenient time.

There has been some publicity in recent times regarding parent behaviour at schools. Emmaus College does have a College Board approved Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians and School Volunteers. Fortunately we have not had any reason to reference this Code.

SUPERVISION HOURS
Supervision hours at both campuses are generally from 8.05am each morning and in the afternoon until the last charter bus departs (around 3.45pm. at Vermont South and 3.30pm at Burwood). The Library is also open at Vermont South until 4.30pm for students to study/complete homework. For legal reasons, we clearly stipulate these times, and encourage parents not to have students on Campus before or after these times unless required for specific school tasks.

PARENTING TIPS
Throughout 2016 we will be adding Parenting Tips from noted psychologist Michael Grose. These are on the website under Community – Parent Tips and are short pdfs on a range of topics. I would encourage you to visit this added component of the website from time to time.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND
In 2015 the Victorian Government introduced a Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF).

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. Secondary school students receive an annual payment of $225.

Application forms are to be completed and lodged with the College by 29 February 2016. CSEF application forms can either be obtained via Quicklinks on our website homepage or are available at Student Services or the College Reception Desk.
**Y9@E REPORT**

Mr Michael Lafferty

**AND THE JOURNEY BEGINS**

225 fresh faced and wide-eyed young people strode onto the Burwood Campus for the first time in 2016. The new school year also signalled a changing of the guard at Burwood with four new staff members joining the Y9@E team – two of whom are brand new to Emmaus College.

Four days into week 1 and the students launched into the first Y9@E program – Active Life. This sport and recreation program involves the students in activities such as Martial Arts, Yoga, Zumba, Lawn Bowls, Tennis, Soccer, Basketball, Fitness and Weight Training, AFL and Orienteering. All of these activities are run by experts in their field to ensure we offer the students a genuine experience.

The elective program is also underway, whereby the students are able to choose two subjects they wish to study in each semester – Philosophy, Art, Visual Communication, Drama, German, Indonesian, Italian, Media, Food Technology, Physical Education, Music, My Business, Textiles and Robotics. This program offers students a hands-on learning experience as well as hopefully igniting a passion for a particular future field of study.

Below is some feedback from students about their experience at Burwood so far:

“I love how everything is so close together, it gives us the chance to hang out together in one big group especially at lunch. I’ve got to know a lot more people who have similar interests as me because of the electives I have chosen.”

*Zoe Walsh*

“I found it difficult to adjust to Burwood, with its weird timetables on elective days, rabbit hole like staircases and classrooms and teachers, but over time I’ve felt more at home here, and I’m ready for an action-packed year.”

*William Osborne*

“My experience at Burwood Campus so far has been good. I enjoy trying new things like Active Life and being in a new environment. It’s good just to have our own space where we can interact with everyone much more easily.”

*Hailey Morris*

“I think the Burwood Campus is a great place because it is small and easy to find my way around but also because I get to meet new people; I also like Active Life.”

*Juliana Di Monte*

“My experience so far at the Year 9 Campus has been great, I like how it’s just Year 9s, so that we have our own space away from other Year Levels. I like how we are doing more activities, e.g. Active Life.”

*Sarah Gartland*

“I love the Burwood Campus with just the Year 9s and catching transport / tram with mates.”

*Joshua Buxton*

A big thank you to all Year 9 staff who have helped ensure a smooth transition for all students.

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**PARENT FORUM**

*7 MARCH 7.30-8.30PM IN THE BHPAC*

Sally Gissing from the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation will be a guest speaker at this evening. Sally is the Education Deliverer/Prevention Program Educator at the Foundation and has been involved in a number of presentations to groups such as sporting clubs, schools and at conferences to educate the community about gambling.
Diving into a book can open up a world of knowledge for young people. Google ‘reasons to read’ and a host of information can be found detailing the educational, social and emotional benefits of regular reading.

In an increasingly digital age, there is even greater reason to encourage a love of the written word in our students. For this reason, the English Department has implemented a program of quiet reading for the first five minutes of each English class in Years 7 and 8. As such, all students are required to enjoy a page or two of a book of their choice before the lesson of the day commences so as to encourage regular home reading. Research supports the value of this; numerous studies have found that regular reading improves vocabulary, strengthens empathy, improves focus and concentration and provides exposure to a variety of places, situations and ideas.

The English staff have found that the programme has begun on a very positive note. It serves as a calm, focussed segue into language and literacy classes and students have enjoyed discussing their reading material and book recommendations with their teachers and one another.

To place value on regular reading, students who have read two or more books over the course of each term will be entered into a termly reading draw for a small prize. We therefore encourage you to chat to your children about their books so as to foster a collective culture and love of reading in our young people.

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers.” Charles William Eliot

Mrs Kerryn Dodson – LAL English

VCE ENGLISH LECTURE SERIES

In order to enrich our students’ understanding of the texts and skills of VCE English, the English department will be hosting a series of afternoon lectures over the course of the year. Whilst these are not compulsory, they are an excellent opportunity for students to broaden their perspectives and gain valuable insights.

All the presentations begin at 3:20 and end at approximately 4:30.

YEAR 12 GUEST SPEAKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Tuesday, 23 February</td>
<td>Virginia Lee (Brooklyn)</td>
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<td>2. Thursday, 3 March</td>
<td>Brooklyn Panel Discussion</td>
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<td>3. Tuesday, 15 March</td>
<td>John Kilner (Persuasion in The Media)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Thursday, 5 May</td>
<td>Karen Ford (Whose Reality?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Tuesday, 17 May</td>
<td>Ann Hyland (The Psychology of Whose Reality?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Thursday, 23 June</td>
<td>Fiona Tassone (Wag The Dog)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Thursday, 28 July</td>
<td>Karen Ford Analysing Argument / Language Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Tuesday, 2 August</td>
<td>David McLean (Stasiland)</td>
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YEAR 11 GUEST SPEAKERS AND SCREENINGS

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tuesday, 1 March</td>
<td>David McLean (The War Poems)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Tuesday, 15 March</td>
<td>John Kilner (Persuasion in the Media)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Thursday, 28 July</td>
<td>Karen Ford (Analysing Argument)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Friday, 5 August</td>
<td>Viewing of Healing</td>
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YEAR 11 LITERATURE STUDENTS AT WORK

The Year 11 Literature class are presenting their Orals on their individual choice of text for Unit 1. The students explain a creative task that has been inspired by the text they have chosen. Charlotte Wessel is pictured with her painting inspired by Oscar Wilde’s experience in prison and Leigh McAlpine is pictured with his ingenious bolt action rifle made of lego inspired by a Jeffrey Archer novel. There has been a range of creative offerings and the students have performed very well in their Orals. It is hoped they will attempt to read some of the novels chosen by their fellow class mates and increase the range and depth of their wider reading. We do indeed have very creative students and Literature affords an opportunity to showcase their talents.

Mrs Bernadette Taylor – Literature Teacher
Technology is here to stay! Whether you are happy with this reality or not, as a parent you need to understand how to deal with the ever-changing technologies that young people use. In reality, it is not the technology that is at fault but the way people use and in many cases, abuse it!

There are times when it is all too easy to use “screen time” to pacify your offspring or use it as a baby sitter. All parents are guilty of using this strategy from time to time. The question is when does screen time become a problem for young children and teenagers?

Dr Kristy Goodwin, a mum herself, has studied the rise of technology and the effect this has had on children’s brains and in particular their ability to learn. This article will briefly discuss her research and give some advice on tackling this issue at home.

Dr Goodwin has established that technology is essential for student learning and needs to be leveraged for the best possible outcomes. When children are provided with boundaries within the home, they are far better equipped to learn at school.

**WHAT CAN TECHNOLOGY DO TO THE BRAIN?**

Her research has demonstrated that continual pleasure in playing games releases dopamine causing addictive behaviour.

However, not all screen time is bad. Spending an hour creating a video or digital animation is valuable time spent encouraging creativity and problem-solving skills. The answer lies in what activity students are taking part in on their ICT devices.

**ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS**

Monitor what your children are doing during screen time

Insist that all screen time activity is in an area where you can actively supervise your children. Be aware of what homework activities are and what pleasure activities like game playing are.

Set time limits for pleasurable activities

Before commencing screen time, students and parents can agree on the duration for play and set a count-down timer using the clock on an iOS device. A transition activity can then be negotiated, like going for a run or having a meal before starting homework. Let the student manage their time and they will be more likely to take responsibility for putting the device away when finished.

Sleep is important for growing teenagers

ICT devices emit blue light which inhibits the body’s creation of melatonin, an important hormone which encourages sleep. Lack of sleep can impact cognitive development. Bedrooms should be tech-free zones to encourage sleep, while also enforcing time away from any online activity. Have a technology landing zone in the house which is in full view for all family members.

**Posture needs to be considered**

Children who spend too much time on mobile devices are at risk of muscular skeletal problems and posture issues. Ideally, devices should be at eye level. Lying on your tummy or on a bean bag is actually better as these positions keep the device at eye level while keeping the head and neck upright. Eye strain can also be an issue and students are encouraged to blink more during screen time.

**Multitasking is not what it seems**

Many students will tell you that they can do two things at once, for example, check social media while doing their homework. This is simply not supported by research. The human brain can only focus on one activity at a time. Students need to learn the skill of monotasking and seeing it through to completion to do their best. For best results, parents are encouraged to teach students to manage their attention on one task at a time.

**Television can actually be good for learning**

There are many programs on TV which are educational that help students understand concepts easily. Parents are encouraged to select slow-paced linear programs where parents can ask questions to assist with understanding.

**Parents Modelling positive technology behaviours**

Adults have a huge role to play in modelling good behaviour in using technology. Research indicates that children inherit digital behaviours from their parents. It is important that parents model a positive use of technology at home.

For further information visit the following:

www.everychancetolearn.com.au
Dr Kristy Goodwin’s website with lots of advice and a chance for you to ask questions

www.youtube.com/watch?v=v014r_hQ7DY
Video on how to change to Guided Access for young children on iPads.

www.commonsensemedia.org
Advice for families & parents.

If you have any questions in relation to using technology in the home or school, do not hesitate to ask.

Mrs Antoinette Siarabalos – eLearning Co-ordinator

THE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOU!

The Language Department is now starting to organise the 2016 Exchange Program. Essentially we have students coming from our Sister Schools in Italy, Germany and Indonesia on a cultural exchange. The students come here to improve their English and to discover more about our culture. The students are 15-18 years of age. Normally we rely on our Language classes to host however, due to our small class numbers, at times it is necessary to ask beyond our language classes to find families willing to host.

Last year many non-Language students’ families hosted exchange students, and they had an amazing experience as it opened up a world of opportunity and a chance to meet people from the other side of the world.

On the following page is an article by Madeleine Glover (a non-Language student), whose family hosted an Italian student. Maddy then travelled to Italy at the end of the year and attended our Sister School, and stayed with the Italian family she had hosted earlier that year.

Exchange dates below:

- Italian Sister School – 7-29 July (approx. 3 weeks)
- German Sister School – all of Term 3
- Indonesian Sister School – 4 weeks of Term 3

If you are interested in hosting a student, please call Maria Sabo 9845 3218 or email maria.sabo@emmaus.vic.edu.au.

STUDENT CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Godfrey Slattery (pictured right), who competed in a range of Nationals cycling events in the first week of this month. He won a gold medal in the team pursuit, and silver medal in the individual pursuit. As a bottom age senior rider, that was a fantastic result. Well done!

TAX FILE NUMBERS (TFN)

The College no longer processes Tax File Number applications on behalf of the Australian Taxation Office. If your son or daughter needs a TFN for work or for applying to a tertiary institution, you can access the application form at the following link.

I was fortunate last year to host one of the students from our Italian Sister School. I met Giulia, who stayed with me and my family for 3 weeks, but never did I imagine I would have found such a beautiful person. In January this year, I had the opportunity to travel to Italy alone to visit the Italian Sister School and attend their classes. As I am a hospitality student at William Angliss, I attended more of the cooking classes and experienced how different it is to our lifestyle.

I felt so nervous meeting the family at first especially at the thought of being alone in basically a stranger's house and only having met Giulia when she came to my house for a short time. Her family of four consisted of her mum, dad, brother and her very cute puppy, Nicky. After the 3-week stay, I felt so welcome in their home – especially since I struggled with the language barrier.

When I first arrived, the family took me to a café where I ordered a hot chocolate. I was thinking it was a traditional hot chocolate like the ones I'm used to back in Melbourne. However, to my surprise it was basically chocolate that was heated into a thick mixture which was served in a cup with ‘Panna’ whipped cream.

I also visited many beautiful and amazing sights in Turin. Turin at night is such a beautiful city because all the streets are lit up and everything is so pretty. The Royal Palace, St Charles Square, Stupingi Hunting Lodge, The Superga Basilica, The Church of the Great Mother of God, The Madama Palace, The Castello Square, The Egyptian Museum and much, much more. The most famous landmark is La Mole Antonelliana, which is the tallest tower in Turin and holds the Cinema and Moving Pictures Museum. The museum was very interesting, however, what excited me the most was the view from the very top which I was so lucky to experience. The view is beyond words – it looked like a dream with the mountains in the background.

On one of the weekends during my stay I was lucky enough to go to a ski resort, Sestriere to see snow, which was amazing! I hadn’t been to the snow since I was a little girl. The ski resort was so beautiful and the snow, pure white. When I arrived, I stuck my hand out and to my surprise and excitement I caught a snowflake that looked so beautiful. Giulia surprised me by taking me ice skating which was a real challenge as I haven’t properly skated on real ice before. It is very different to the typical ice rinks with fake ice back home as it was so cold around, -20°C and out in the open.

I attended the Sister School for the last two weeks of my stay, as the first week was still their winter holiday time. Everything was so different to how my usual lifestyle, starting with waking up at 5:30am every morning to catch a train to Pinerolo and walk about 10 minutes from the station to the school.

For the first week at school, I attended many classes with my host Giulia attending various lessons. I had trouble with the language at first as all lessons were in Italian, but students helped me settle in.

As I am a hospitality student attending William Angliss School here in Melbourne and as our Sister School is a Hotel and Catering school, I attended a variety of cooking classes. I have a passion for pastries and sweets, so I was put in more of those classes to broaden my experience, knowledge and most importantly my passion for cooking. As I am not an Italian student, I did have difficulty with the language but I was looked after by various students who could speak English. I learned to make various dishes such as Zuppa Inglese, tarts, cakes, biscuits, risotto, aranchini, focaccia, soups, fish, sauces, garnishes, meatballs, pasta and so much more. We didn’t have to bring lunch to school as we ate the food we made in class. I was even part of a special service for a function that was being held.

Leaving Italy was just as difficult as arriving. Saying goodbye to everyone I had met during my stay and being a part of Giulia’s family just made it so much harder to leave.

If you have the opportunity to host or to attend our Sister School in Italy, I highly recommend it. I have made lifelong friends on the other side of the world which is amazing.

Madeline Glover (Year 12)
UNIFORM POLICY REMINDERS

With the start of the new school year, it is timely to remind families of some matters relating to the summer uniform. As always, the support of parents in implementing the College uniform policy is essential to ensure that our students are presenting themselves at an appropriate standard.

HEADWEAR AND OTHER SUN PROTECTION STRATEGIES

The school hat is an important part of the College uniform and should be brought to school every day in Term 1. Students are strongly encouraged to wear a College hat during recess and lunch breaks, or to remain in the shade if they choose not to do so. We ask that parents check that their child has a school cap in appropriate condition in their possession. The hat is available for purchase from the school offices at both Campuses for $5 if a new one is required.

Of course the school hat is just one measure that students should be taking in order to protect themselves from the dangers of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. You can’t see and you can’t feel ultraviolet (UV) radiation - heat or high temperatures are not an indication of UV radiation. Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen, which is available at Student Services and various other locations around the school. They should also make use of the many shaded areas that are available. It is important that students are aware of the risks and the steps they should take in order to protect themselves. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. More than 1700 Australians die from skin cancer each year, and two out of three Australians will get a skin cancer before the age of 70. Parents are encouraged to have conversations with their sons and daughters about this reality, and discuss the steps that they are putting in place to ensure that they are protecting themselves during their time at school.

PIERCINGS

One earring in each earlobe is allowed – no other piercings should be evident. Earrings must be small. Students should not have:

- nose rings, rings at the top of their ears, eyebrow rings etc.
- dangly ear rings, animals/love hearts/words etc
- black plastic ear rings (or similar)
- multiple earrings

A band-aid/tape over a nose-ring (for example) is not acceptable.

Parental support is crucial in ensuring the implementation of this policy. Students who arrive at school with jewellery through a new piercing (that does not meet these requirements) will be asked to remove it. There are no exceptions to this rule. School policy is that incorrect items of jewellery can be confiscated and kept until the end of term.

ENGLISH HELP

WHEN: MONDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM
WHERE: VERMONT SOUTH LIBRARY

MATHS HELP

There will be no official Maths Help sessions this semester. Instead if your son or daughter is experiencing difficulty with Maths, he or she should ask the Maths teacher for extra explanations and assistance. The extra help could be done in class or at a suitable time outside class. I believe that this system will be more rewarding both for the student and the teacher.

Mrs Ruth Fry – LAL Mathematics

APP4 PARENTS PORTAL

LOGIN ON LAPTOPS

How to access your daughter/son’s Homework & Set Tasks

1. In your web browser go to the Emmaus College homepage, go to “Quick Links” and select App4Parents.

2. If you haven’t done so, please create a new parent/guardian for your son or daughter. To do this you need, your son/daughter’s Emmaus Username & Password. You need to have a separate account for every student at the College.

3. Once the new parent account has been created, your son/daughter’s Emmaus Username is used. The Parent Access Code is used to login.
STAY TUNED EMMAUS!

AUDITIONS

23-25 FEBRUARY

TRACEY IS COMING...
## COMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Catch-up Photographs. Senior School Peak Skills Session No. 2, 7.00-9.40pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>School Tour, Vermont South, 9.00am. (Bookings essential.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Theology Seminar 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Year 7 2017 Closing Date for Enrolment Applications. Class of 2015 Reunion, Vermont South, 3.45pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Senior School Peak Skills Session No. 3, 7.00-9.40pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EISM Division 1 Swimming, MSAC, 5.30-8.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Theology Seminar 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Year 7 Family Fun Day, 3.00-5.30pm Music Camp, 6-8 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Outdoor Education Camp, 7-11 March Parent Forum, BHPAC Vermont South, 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chavoin House Day Music Camp Concert, BHPAC, 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Theology Seminar 3 Education Committee, 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Newsletter No. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Y9@E City Explore 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Y9@E City Explore 2 EISM Senior Sports Grand Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Y9@E City Explore 3 Year 10 Reflection Day Finance Committee, 5.15pm College Board AGM, Vermont South, 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>House Athletics Carnival, Knox</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Champions Swim Carnival Senior School Peak Skills Session No. 4, 7.00-9.40pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Holy Thursday Day 10 Timetable Interim Reports Available On-line Term ends 3.15pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

**OPEN 3 MARCH**

**8.15AM – 9AM AND 3 – 4PM**

Uniforms for sale can be left at Student Services if the Shop is not open. Forms can be downloaded from the College website. Blazers need to be drycleaned.

Email: taniakeogh@hotmail.com

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### ARE YOU AN ELITE SPORTSPERSON?

If so, the Local Sporting Champions Grant may be for you!

There are fifteen federal government grants to the value of $500 each to successful applicants to assist sportspersons with equipment and travel costs. More information on eligibility and the application process can be found at: