

Reflections

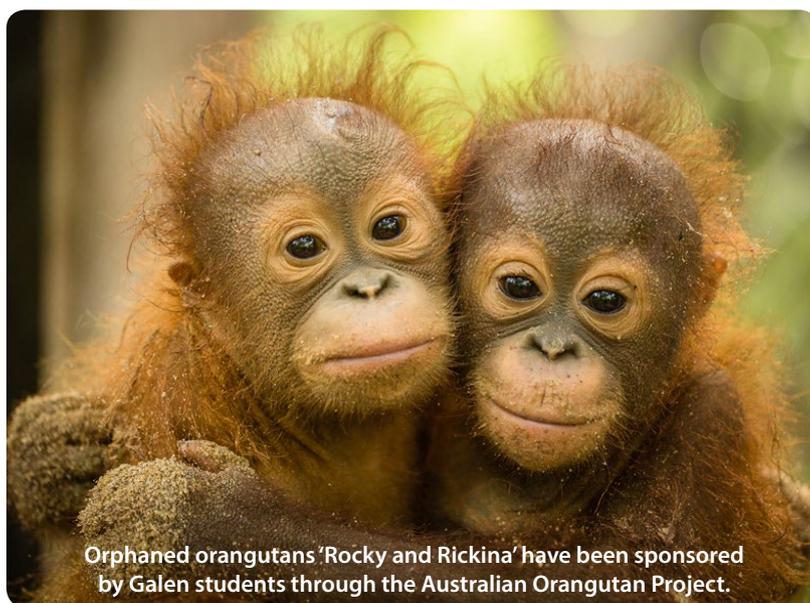


Galen Catholic College Newsletter

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

Issue 11

Indonesian Orangutan Day at Galen



Orphaned orangutans 'Rocky and Rickina' have been sponsored by Galen students through the Australian Orangutan Project.

Throughout Term Two, Galen students studying Indonesian learnt about several endangered species living in Indonesia, with a particular focus on the orangutan. At present there are 6000 orangutans living in Indonesia but their habitat is declining as a result of logging and forest fires, in order to create palm oil plantations.

Students were shocked with their research and decided to create an event to raise awareness about the endangered orangutan and how palm oil plantations are severely threatening these inquisitive creatures.

The Year 8 Indonesian classes organised a number of stalls on the day including: Guess the Lollies in the Jar, Guess the Palm Oil Product, a cake and pancake stall and many more. A total of \$236.30 was raised on the day. The students were very grateful for the

generous donations and the support of this worthy cause.

The students have decided to sponsor two orphaned orangutans 'Rocky and Rickina' (pictured above), through the Australian Orangutan Project. Funds raised by the students will also help the organisation purchase 15 square meters of land in East Kalimantan. The area will be replanted with native vegetation and is protected from future logging and palm oil plantations. It provides a livelihood for the locals and will also be a haven for orangutans that will be released back into the wild in the future.

Some comments from the Year 8 Indonesian students were:

"Orangutan Day was a great success! We learnt different ways about how to advertise

our stalls to make them interesting, how threatened orangutans are, and just how important this cause is! I enjoyed the fact that we were assisting the survival of the orangutans, and I also enjoyed preparing for the stalls and making posters! What I found interesting was that orangutans have so quickly become a threatened species, due to the lack of rainforests in Indonesia. I hope that from Orangutan Day that others understand how important Orangutans are to the ecosystem and to this earth" Billie Taylor.

"I learnt that there is more palm oil in products than you think. On the back of products it doesn't actually say what ingredients have palm oil in it and that Orangutans are dying because of it" Chloe Robinson.

*Written by Megan Webster
Indonesian LOTE Teacher*

Important Curriculum Information - see page 3

VCE Info Night

6.30pm - Wed 23rd July

Venue: Auditorium and Senior Library

Year 10 into Year 11 Interviews

For more information about the Year 10 into 11 subject selection interviews, please refer to the attached parent letter in this issue of the newsletter.

- A Common Grade Scale for subjects
- Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

More information on page 3

What's On

- Wed Jul 23 - VCE (2015) Info Night
- Thurs Jul 24 - Yr 10 OEd X/C Ski
- Fri Jul 25 - National Tree Day Event
- Sun Jul 27 - Ski Team 2
- Tues Jul 29 - Yr 10 OEd X/C Ski
- Tues Jul 29 - Yr 10 Party Safe Seminar
- Wed Jul 30 - Yr 12: Life of Galileo P1
- Wed Jul 30 - Ski Team 1
- Thurs Jul 31 - Hospitality Excursion Melb
- Thurs Jul 31 - Yr 10 Interviews P5 - 6.00pm
- Thurs Jul 31 - Beneath the Southern Stars
- Wed Aug 6 - Just Leadership
- Wed Aug 6 - Year 10 (2015) Info Night
- Thurs Aug 7 - Diocesan Winter Sleepout at Echuca
- Mon Aug 11 - Science Week
- Mon Aug 11 - Ski Team 3
- Tues Aug 12 - Yr 11 Macbeth P3/4
- Tues Aug 12 - Yr 8 Poetry P5/6
- Tues Aug 12 - Yr 11 & 12 UH Soccer
- Wed Aug 13 - Yr 10 Tertiary Trip P1-6
- Wed Aug 13 - Hospitality Excursion Melb
- Thurs Aug 14 - Yr 10 Romeo & Juliet P5/6
- Sun Aug 17 - Santa Teresa depart
- Mon Aug 18 - Years 8 & 9 (2015) Info distributed
- Mon Aug 18-20: Yr 11 OES Ski Tour
- Tues Aug 19 - VCE Theatre Studies Monologue Workshop
- Wed Aug 20 - Founders' Day Assembly
- Thurs Aug 21-22: Yr 10 Melbourne Trip
- Fri Aug 22 - Vic School Bands Festival
- Sat Aug 23 - Santa Teresa return
- Sun Aug 24 - Ski Team 4
- Mon Aug 25 - Yr 7 Basketball
- Mon Aug 25 - Yr 7-10 Table Tennis
- Tues Aug 26-27 - Jnr Production @ WPAC
- Wed Aug 27 - Grade 6 into Year 7 tests
- Thurs Aug 28-29: Yr 10 Melbourne Trip
- Mon Sep 1 - Health Week
- Tues Sep 2 - Yr 8 Basketball
- Wed Sep 3 - Yr 12 OES River Enviro Day
- Sat Sep 6-7: OEd Expedition Snowy River
- Tues Sep 9 - Year 10 Formal
- Wed Sep 10 - 9-10 Basketball
- Thurs Sep 11 - Parent Teacher Evening
- Fri Sep 12 - Parent Teacher Morning
- Mon Sep 15 - Bands Showcase at WPAC
- Mon Sep 15 - Murray River Culinary Challenge
- Tues Sep 16-17: Yr 10 OEd Walk Group 1
- Wed Sep 17-19: Italian Camp
- Fri Sep 19 - End of Term 3: 2.30pm finish

Uniform Shop

Opening Hours

Tuesday: 10.30am - 2.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Direct Line: 03 5723 8320

uniform.shop@galen.vic.edu.au

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to second semester! And a particular welcome to new students and their families. For most students, there will be changes of subjects, changes of timetables and even changes of teachers. For students in the Junior and Middle Schools this will be in the form of new electives; for Year 9s it will also include a change either into or out of the Discovery Program; for VCE and VCAL students the changes will take them into the next units of their chosen pathways.

New staff

I'd like to give a very warm welcome to our two newest staff members, Julie Oste who will be based in the front office and Jenni Hopkins who will be teaching in the Maths Domain.

Returning staff

Welcome back to a number of staff returning from leave: Dom Giannone, Alison and Edwin Evans, Olga Byrne, Peter and Michelle Hill.

New parents

A hearty congratulations to teacher Rob Spencer and Emily on the birth of Edward Thomas, and teacher Marisa Primerano and Mark on the birth of Archie Anthony during the holidays.

Senior Band Tour of Tasmania

Well done to David Ashfield, Beth Code and Helen Faithfull on a very successful Senior Band Tour of Tasmania during the holidays. A report from the Tour is included in this edition of the newsletter.

Review of the Annual Calendar

It has become apparent over the past few years that our yearly calendar has become very full and busy. There is a plethora of activities that provide great opportunities for our students. However, sometimes these opportunities come at the cost of student time in class and teacher time in front of their regular classes.

The Leadership Team has begun the process of reviewing and rationalizing the calendar. We do not want to necessarily remove things from the calendar, but we want to structure them in a way that removes or at least minimizes the impact on the scheduled curriculum. Our aim is to both rationalize the events on offer and their timing, and to find ways that better integrate co-curricular offerings with the timetabled curriculum.

Information Nights for 2015

There are two Information Nights coming up soon for students commencing VCE or Year 10 in 2015:

- VCE (2015) Information Night – Wednesday, July 23rd
- Year 10 (2015) Information Night – Wednesday August 6th.

Year 12 students

At the beginning of the year I mentioned to Year 12 students that to ensure success, their best asset in 2014 would be their work ethic, and their best allies would be their teachers. As we have now reached Term 3, there are 9 weeks left of this term before you will focus on revising for exams and completing final assessments at the beginning of Term 4, regardless of whether you are completing the VCE, VCAL or VET courses. Our expectation is that you will each continue to strive to do your personal best, and we will support those who put their best foot forward.

To all students at Galen, ensure that you make the most of the immense learning opportunities that are available to you at our college, go well this term!

Best wishes,

Bernard Neal
Principal

Indonesian Exchange Students

Last week Galen Catholic College welcomed two Indonesian exchange students to our school, Muhammad Fadly Devranda and Aziz Muhammad Farid.

These students will be placed in Year 9 classes during their 6 week exchange. They will experience a range of different subjects, learn about our education system and meet new friends. They will also be a vital part of the Indonesian program at Galen by providing language practise and cultural knowledge to students who are studying Indonesian.

Both boys come from Bandar Lampung, which is located in Southern Sumatra. Stay tuned for more information about their adventures in Australia in the next edition of the newsletter.



Curriculum News

Shaun Mason - Deputy Principal: Learning & Teaching

The Common Grade Scale

The Galen Curriculum Committee recently agreed to a common grade scale for the college which will be applied across domains and year levels beginning this semester. The grade scale is:

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

VCE Info Night

The VCE Information Night will begin at 6.30pm on Wed 23rd July. Domain Leaders and VCE/VCAL/VET teachers will be available to discuss subjects and options for 2015. At 7pm there will be a brief information session in the Auditorium and then more time will be available to talk to with staff about subject selection and pathways. The info night will be held in the Auditorium and Senior Library.

Year 10 into Year 11 Interviews

For more information about the Year 10 into 11 subject selection interviews, please refer to the attached parent letter in this issue of the newsletter.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Our school has been selected to participate in the 2014 Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (Data Collection). This national Data Collection is taking place in schools across Australia and will provide information about the number of students with disability in schools, where they are located and the adjustments they receive.

The information provided by this new data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources. This will assist students with disability in government and non-government schools across Australia to complete school and go on to further education or find employment. Inclusion in the Data Collection is voluntary. If you wish your child to be excluded from this, you can choose to opt-out of the data collection by informing us in writing.

For further information about the Data Collection visit Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) website:

<http://www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au>
or read the information pages included in this newsletter.

Shaun Mason
Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching

Galen Catholic College
Junior Production

NEMO'S
ADVENTURE

Featuring students
from Years 7 - 9

August 25 & 26
at 7pm 2014

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
WANGARATTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

In person or by phone (10am - 4pm Mon to Fri)
Or online: www.wangarattapac.com.au

Middle School News

Rob Walker - Middle School Director

Well done to Meg Walch, Chloe Hancock & Marcel Tonini who are the new Youth Council representatives for Wangaratta. These students presented themselves very positively and are now not only great ambassadors for Galen but Wangaratta youth.

Well done to all year 10's who participated in the Careers Expo on Wednesday July 16. This was a very informative session, which was a great introduction to the subject selection process and the upcoming VCE parents information night on July 23. Many thanks to the excellent presentation provided by careers coordinators Miss Carly Bilke and Mr Peter Girolami.

Well done to all year 9's on their smooth transition into and out of the Discovery Program. Students have settled into classes immediately and despite the winter weather have made a great start to the new term. This term in week two the year 9's will welcome two new exchange students who will spend 6-8 weeks in homeroom 9/1. Their names Muhammad and Aziz. This will be not only a great opportunity for these Indonesian students but also for our Galen students as well.

Well done to Angus Burnett from 10.5 on playing in the Victorian State Hockey Championships. His team made the Grand Final and were runners up.



Social Justice

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 28 September. This year's Social Justice Statement is titled: **'A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation'**.

The Statement celebrates the place of sport in our national life, especially the way in which it brings individuals and communities together and contributes to our health and wellbeing. At the same time, the Statement challenges to look at sport's darker side – the potential for violence, abuse and corruption that blemish its image and disillusion those who love it most. For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au> or call (02) 8306 3499.

Senior School News

Mick Grogan - Senior School Director

On Wednesday July 16, the student leaders held a lunchtime barbeque to welcome back the Senior School student cohort. A number of students, including two very talented and confident Italian exchange girls provided musical entertainment for this relaxed social event.

Right: Italian exchange students Elisabetta Daga and Serena Paladini.

It is pleasing to note that the Senior School students have settled back into school and the associated routine. Year 12 VCE students have just over 12 weeks of school until the written exams begin and it is important to persist by working hard during this time. Most students utilize the Study Centre and are approaching their courses diligently. Year 11 VCE students, term 3 is an opportunity to consolidate Unit 2 material and to contemplate your pathway for 2015. Year 11 and 12 VCAL students are encouraged to continue planning their pathways within their program and if apt the transition from school to work and further study. Year 12 Students will be voting on their end of year T Shirt and Hoodie designs shortly. We wish Demi Shale's mum all the best as she represents Australia at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Gaye is competing in the Women's Double Trap Clay Target Shooting.



Important Senior School Dates:

- Arts/Technology Exhibition, Tuesday Oct 14 – Friday Oct 17
- Year 12 Last day, Tuesday Oct 21
- Year 12 Unit 4 Written Exams begin Wednesday Oct 29
- Year 12 Graduation Evening Thursday Nov 20

An Italian Cooking Lesson

with Michela Screpante - Italian Language Assistant

Spaghetti alla carbonara (Italian style recipe)

Ingredients (4 serves):

- Spaghetti 400 g
- Pancetta (bacon) 150 g
- Pecorino or parmesan cheese 30 g
- Eggs x 2
- Salt and pepper

In a large bowl, beat the eggs with pecorino cheese, salt and pepper.

In a frying pan, brown the bacon (or, for the Italian cuisine fanatics "pancetta", if sold at your grocery store) cut into cubes.



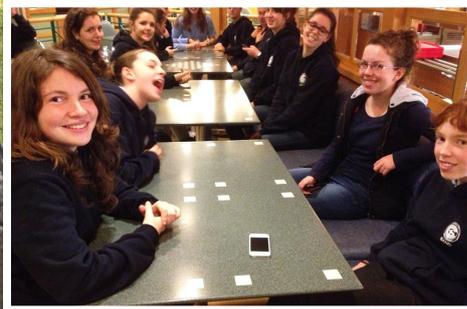
Cook spaghetti al dente, drain, and place them in a pan with the bacon. Pour the aforementioned hot cream of eggs and pecorino cheese on the spaghetti. Stir well and serve with plenty of fresh-ground pepper.

Buon appetito!

Senior Band tours Tasmania

The Senior Concert Band recently visited Tasmania for their annual tour. Highlights of the trip included:

Overnight trips on the Spirit of Tasmania Ferry. Performances at primary schools including St Patrick's in Wangaratta, Our Lady of the Lourdes in Devenport and Launceston Christian School. A very brief performance at Salamanca place in Hobart before the rain stopped us. Visits to the famous Salamanca market in Hobart, the Port Arthur convict site for the ghost tour and day tours and Cataract Gorge in Launceston. A big thanks to Helen Faithfull, Katie Faithfull and Beth Code who accompanied me and the students from the Senior Band for making it such a memorable trip. *Written by David Ashfield - Music Director*



Words from Wellbeing

Depression Proofing

About 20% of people experience depression at some time in their lives. Unfortunately once someone has experienced depression, they are at far greater risk of feeling that way again. Although there is no guarantee of protecting everyone from depression Andrew Fuller, a Clinical Psychologist specialising in Adolescence suggests the following tips to make it less likely.

1. Sadness is not always bad

We won't be happy all the time. Realising that all feelings pass and that we can learn from the whole range of feelings, sadness included, is part of being human.

2. Lower the amount of stress

Try to identify some of the major sources of stress in your life and develop systems to deal with them. Exercise and being active are great ways to de-stress.

3. Find some good friends

Family and friends are great to talk things over with, enrich our lives and protect us in difficult times.

4. Eat healthily

What we eat can change our mood. Leafy green vegetables, fish, B vitamins and folic acid, oats, meat, grains and nuts all contain nutrients and good fats shown to alleviate depression.

5. Have some sources of "Flow"

These are the things that you do that absorb you and take you away from your day to day cares and worries.

6. Belong to the karma club

Decide to increase good will in the world by doing something positive for someone else. You'll be amazed at the benefit to you of increasing someone else's happiness.

7. Be grateful and lucky

Focusing on parts of your life that you are grateful for and deciding that you are lucky makes an enormous difference to your life.

8. Get enough sleep and rest

Getting enough sleep is one of the most powerful ways we can protect ourselves against depression. The wellbeing team has information available if you are concerned about getting to sleep.

9. Laugh more

Make a point of watching TV shows or movies that make you laugh. Share funny stories and jokes with friends. People report that laughing even when they don't feel happy improves their mood and sense of wellbeing.

Adapted from Andrew Fuller - www.andrewfuller.com.au

Parents' Association 2014 AGM

July 22nd, 6.30 pm

To be held at Galen's "Soul Food Cafe" (near the Junior Library.) If you are interested in being part of our Committee, please come along and after the meeting join us for a light supper. Parking will be available in the staff car park via the College St. Entrance.

Upper Hume Girls Badminton

Congratulations to the 3 girls teams who played in the Upper Hume Badminton Competition on 19th June at the Barr Reserve. All teams played well and placed 2nd in their pool on the day, a great effort!

The Year 7 girls team included Annabelle Creed, Imogen Quilty, Gemma McKinley, Rebecca Johnstone and Izabella Murdoch. The Year 8 team was Lauren Torpey, Georgia Mahoney, Kate Whitten, Grace Bishop and Stephanie Hester

The Year 9/10 teams girls team included Lucy Lee, Isabelle Smith, Teneisha Clark, Emma Gamble and Meg Walch. Thanks to Julie Nolan and Jonothon Panozzo who took the teams on the day.

Year 8 Boys' Upper Hume Football

It was a cold day on the 3rd of June when the Year 8 boys competed in the Upper Hume AFL Competition.

The boys won their 2 pool matches against Cathedral College and Wodonga Middle Years easily, with all players giving their best effort.

They then played Catholic College Wodonga in the final who played some great football and used the ball better than Galen to run away as 8 point winners.

Stand our players on the day, in no particular order, were Cameron Nolan, Lachie Moore, Macauley Murtagh and Jeffrey Holmes. Thanks to Mr Anson for coaching the boys on the day



Education Maintenance Allowance

Those parents who have been issued with a Concession Card recently, may be eligible for the second EMA installment. The following information may be useful for those parents or guardians who wish to apply:

Card must be valid from this date: 14 Jul 2014
Parent Applications close: 1 Aug 2014

Payments Due in Period 2:
Sec. School Parent Yr7: \$90.00
Sec. School Parent: \$75.00

Should you require further information or wish to get a copy of the application form. Please contact Galen Catholic College on (03)5721 6322.

School's Out!

The creative work of Galen
Catholic College teachers

Fri Aug 15th - Sun Sept 7th

Opening Night: Friday 15th Aug 6.30pm

at Atelier d'Art - 109A Murphy Street



Galen Landcare Project

In partnership with Landcare Australia, Wangaratta Environment Network and Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group and the Rural City of Wangaratta, the Galen community and volunteers from the local area are restoring the river flats and billabongs north of the school. Known for many years as a part of the College Farm, the area has been targeted with a \$20,000 grant to restore the native vegetation and eradicate the weed problem. In restoring the vegetation, the project also aims to encourage animal and birdlife by selective planting and a nesting box program.



A secondary grant of \$1000 from the Junior Landcare organisation has just been awarded to the school specifically for the construction, placement and monitoring of the nesting boxes.

We need your help!

1. Working Bee: Sunday July 20th - 10am-12pm

Meet at the Parklane Nursery Carpark at the northern end of Park Lane. Bring gum boots, tree planting shovels, gloves. 4WDs with trailers could be helpful if it is not too wet.

2. Planet Ark National Tree Days for Schools

Friday July 25th 9:00 – 1:00pm

Help required with 75 Yr.9 students, 50 St Bernard students and 60 Our Lady's students! Team leaders needed and help to staff the lunch BBQ.

3. We would like to offer a nesting box making night at Galen for families, followed by a placement morning down at the project site. Would members of your family be interested? Please email Ian Minns, Galen Sustainability Co-ordinator, for further information or confirmation of your involvement in the above activities: ian.minns@galen.vic.edu.au



Who's Who at Galen

Leadership Team

- Bernard Neal: Principal
- Patrick Arcuri: Deputy Principal—Staff & Students
- Shaun Mason: Deputy Principal – Teaching & Learning
- Gerard Sullivan: Deputy Principal – Catholic Identity
- Geoff Welch: Deputy Principal (presently on leave)
- Dom Giannone: Business Manager
- Bern Albertson: Professional Development Co-ordinator
- Anthony Batters: Daily Organiser
- Mick Grogan: Senior School Director
- Keith Willett/Rob Walker: Middle School Director
- Lauren Lee: Junior School Director

The best way to contact Galen staff members direct is by email. All staff have email addresses which follow the formula: firstname.surname@galen.vic.edu.au

Members of the Board and Parents Association can be contacted via the office on 035721 6322 or email: admin-enquiry@galen.vic.edu.au

School Board

- Father Mike Pullar: Parish Priest
- Mark Williams: interim Board Chair
- Bernard Neal: Principal
- Phil Bretherton: CEO Representative
- Patrick Arcuri: DP - Staff Representative
- Anthony Batters: Staff Representative
- Suellen Loki: Parent
- Mark Williams: Parent
- Liz Nelson: Parent

Parents Association Executive

- President: Vacant
- Angie Semmens / Karyn Howard: Secretary
- Karen Archer: Treasurer
- Angie Semmens: Board Liaison



For fun and adventure come and try Scouting

Joey's:

Ages 5.5-7 years meet at 6.00-7.30pm on Mondays

Cubs:

Ages 7-11 years meet at 6.30-8.30pm on Tuesdays

Scouts:

Ages 11-15 years meet 6.30-8.30 on Tuesdays

Where: Wangaratta Scout Hall
College St, Wangaratta

Enquiries: Cazz Hicks: 0428 317 980
Email: hicks.carolyn.c@gmail.com

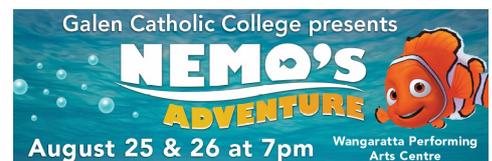
Wangaratta Army Cadet Unit Info Night

Thursday 24 July 2014 between 7.00pm-9.00pm.



All uniforms and military equipment is supplied. If your son or daughter is interested in experiencing the Australian Army Cadets, come along on our OPEN night.

Beersheba Barracks
83 - 85 Sisely Avenue
Wangaratta Vic 3677
Email: 33ACU@cadetnet.gov.au
Phone: (03) 5721 8681



Newsletter enquiries can be emailed directly to the Publications & Promotions Officer: malcolm.webster@galen.vic.edu.au



Galen Catholic College

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Web: www.galen.vic.edu.au



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we move towards the second half of the school year, we come to that time where Year 10 students begin making decisions about their next two years of schooling at Galen. At Galen we endeavour to assist all students to choose a pathway for life after school that suits their individual needs. This has already begun with our extensive Work Experience program in Term 2, but really begins in earnest early in Term 3.

1. Careers Expo / Information Day

Wednesday July 16th

On the first Wednesday of the Term, Year 10 students will be taken through the subject selection form for Year 11 courses at Galen and they will have the opportunity to ask questions about the enrolment process into the two major certificates of VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) and VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning). Ms Carly Bilke and Mr Peter Girolami (Work and Further Education Coordinators) will then spend time with the students discussing options and pathways for life after school to help guide their decisions about Year 11 and 12.

2. VCE/VCAL Information Night

Wednesday July 23rd

This evening will provide information about the two major pathways through Year 11 and Year 12 at Galen: i.e. VCE and VCAL. Parents and students will also have the chance to ask questions of Domain Leaders and VCE/VCAL teachers about subject requirements and choices.

3. Re-commitment Interviews

Thursday July 31st

This new component of the Year 10 into 11 process requires all parents and students to attend an interview with a senior member of the Galen staff. At the interview, current Year 10 progress will be assessed and discussed, the subject selection form for Year 11 will be submitted and a re-commitment form will be signed by all parties (students, staff and parents) acknowledging the re-commitment to Galen by students and parents and our re-commitment to provide every opportunity for success.

Bookings for these interview spots will be made available through schoolinterviews.com.au and we will advertise through PAM and email when they are ready for booking.

Based on the results achieved across all subjects during first semester, students deemed by the school to be at risk of not satisfactorily completing the requirements of Year 10, or of having demonstrated an unsatisfactory attitude to their studies across first semester, will be identified and requested to attend an interview with the Principal or one of the Deputy Principals. In this interview strategies will be developed that aim to produce a satisfactory completion of Year 10 at the end of the year.

We thank you for your anticipated involvement in this important process as your son/daughter moves into post-compulsory schooling and preparation for life beyond secondary school.

Mr Shaun Mason
*Deputy Principal
Learning & Teaching*

Mr Rob Walker
Middle School Director



Nationally Consistent Collection of Data School Students with Disability

Information for Parents/Carers

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability.

The data collection is being introduced in stages over three years, and started in 2013. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year.

All Australian governments have agreed to this.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school should have a high quality education. It shouldn't matter what the individual child's circumstances are – every child should have the same opportunity to succeed at school.

The aim of this new data collection is to have better information about school students with disability in Australia.

Better information about school students with disability will help teachers, principals and education authorities to support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

There is nothing new about schools collecting information about students with disability – in fact, schools have had to do this by law for some time. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect this information – that is, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with

disability. It will help to put the right supports in place for students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without a disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO?

Every school in Australia is likely to have a student with disability at some point. Schools need to be able to support students with disability by removing any obstacles for them to participate in their education.

By law, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments where needed to assist students with disability. These responsibilities are outlined in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*. This means that schools need to talk to the student and/or their parent/carer about reasonable adjustments. These are things the schools do now and this won't change.

The new data collection will record students who have been identified by a school team as meeting the definition of disability under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and provided with an adjustment.

WHAT IS AN ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (like ramps into classrooms), in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).



WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Your child's school will collect and report information every year about:

- the level of adjustment provided
- the number of students who receive each level of adjustment
- where known, the student's broad type of disability.

Some students who are not provided with an adjustment at the time of the collection will meet the definition of disability under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and will be eligible to be included in the data collection.

WHO WILL COLLECT MY CHILD'S INFORMATION?

Teachers and other school staff from your child's school will collect the above information based on:

- consultation with parents/carers
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for making sure that the information collected about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD'S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is very important. With the new data collection, this will be done in the following ways:

- Personal or confidential information will not be given to anyone not authorised to see it.
- When the information is sent by your child's school to the local or federal education authority for combination with information from other schools, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.
- When the information is reported from 2016 onwards, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE DATA BE AVAILABLE?

When all Australian schools are taking part in the new data collection, the information will be reported on the *My School* website from 2016 onwards. It will be by school only – no student names are recorded as part of the data collection.

CAN I DECIDE WHETHER MY CHILD'S INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

It's your decision about whether you want your child's information to be included in the national reporting or not.

Including every school child who is being provided with an adjustment because of disability in this new national data collection each year will help schools, education authorities and governments to better meet students' needs.

Your school will tell you what you need to do if you don't want to have your child's information included in the national data collection.

Even if your child's information is not included in the national data collection, your school is still required to provide support to your child with disability and any adjustments that may be needed to help him/her participate at school.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child's school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may affect your child.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability



Nationally Consistent Collection of Data

Parent / Guardian Non Participation Form

I confirm that I have read and understand the attached information about the National Collection of Data on Disability and/or have been informed of the nature of this project by my child's school.

I **DO NOT** want my child's information included in this process.

Student's name (please print)	
School	
Parent/Guardian name (please print)	
Parent/Guardian signature	
Date	