

20th September 2013

Dear Families

Recently I “gate crashed” a number of Year 8 Roundtable and Year 9 – 10 Subject Counselling meetings and was concerned to hear that some families were unaware of some significant changes and improvements that have begun and others which will commence in 2014. I am encouraging you to take advantage of the school’s major communication tools including the website, the Newsletter and SMS system to remain up to date. I am delighted to highlight changes and improvements below.

1. The launch of remote **DayMap** for families is a change we have been trialling this term and we are aware families have begun accessing this feature. Again, if you experience issues please contact Mark Adams (Senior Leader IT and SACE) on 8551 1900. We need to know and understand the issues so they can be rectified. Instructions on how to access your child’s information on **Daymap** at home can be found on the website <http://www.vhhs.sa.edu.au/daymap>.
2. **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** is a second change we are getting ready for 2014. The IT team is currently investigating greater wireless connectivity so next year your child can use their own device anywhere in the school including access to printing. The finance team are investigating cost effective packages for families and when the deal is finalised you will be informed. Please look out for this information on the website and in the Newsletter. For more information on BYOD you are invited to contact Mark Adams on 8551 1900.
3. The **Uniform** review has been finalised and you can find the policy on the website <http://www.vhhs.sa.edu.au/uniform>. Although the dress requirements have been sharpened rather than changed it is the implementation of the policy which has changed the most. During term 4 we will trial the revised implementation rules for non-compliant students. Hopefully all students will demonstrate respect for their school by complying with the uniform requirements.

In my last letter to you I described some activities being undertaken by the Governing Council. A successful Parent Initiatives in Education (PIE) Grant is providing the funding. The following activities have been completed successfully;

- Year 8 Welcome Cards for distribution to the families of the 2014 Year 8 students.
- Family Day Out where families (not just the students) visited Flinders University.

Governing Council is currently organising:

- A parent evening focussed on adolescence

Copies of **past Newsletters** can be accessed from the school website <http://www.vhhs.sa.edu.au/newsletters>. The newsletter is distributed on Friday of Weeks 3, 6, and 9 to the youngest child in the family. The Governing Council and I are now considering becoming more environmentally aware. We are discussing and debating several technology options including electronic Newsletter circulation only that may involve SMS, email and DayMap. Please email your ideas to us dl:0799_info@schools.sa.edu.au. The website also describes many highlights including testimonials we are gathering from students and families. The press releases we have forwarded to various media outlets are also listed for your information. We also undertake monthly radio interviews with Happy FM and the topics discussed have included bullying and harassment, the FLO Program, Doctor on Campus (DOC), the Senior Formal, Counselling processes, and Sports Day.

The grounds and facilities are still undergoing improvements which you may or may not have noticed. The improvements include

1. **Precinct Area** – when completed later this year it will be an area where students can enjoy basketball and volleyball
2. **Amphitheatre Area** – ready for the start of 2014, this area will be an outdoor performance space for students
3. **Harmony Area** – students can already enjoy the shelter and grass mounds to chat with their friends
4. **Bag Rack Research Centre**– students no longer need to leave their bags on the ground
5. **Automatic sliding doors** for the Middle School building
6. **Perimeter Fencing** – this will begin shortly and will define the school boundary
7. **Signage** – is being upgraded during 2014
8. **Toilets** – senior school toilets now connected to mains water (not rainwater)& cleaning upgraded

I have been involved in several conversations with the Victor Harbor Combined Sports Club and we are looking forward to great progress with these facilities over the next few years

Warm Wishes


Amanda O'Shea
Principal



Harmony Area



Precinct



Amphitheatre will go here



Research Centre Bag Rack