



Principal's Bulletin

July 21, 2017



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Semester 1 Reports have been published via Compass.

Read Newsfeed for more details.

You may think that as we've had school holidays and only one week back at school, I might not have much to report in this week's bulletin but that's not the case. Our student leaders, Year 11 Politics students and Kwong Lee Dow Scholar participated in three wonderful opportunities over the holidays. Their reports follow.

Term 3 is already off to a fast start and it will be particularly hectic over the first four weeks as year 8 & 9 students select their 2018 electives and year 10 & 11 students select their senior pathways. We have a comprehensive program to support students so they are able to make well informed and appropriate pathway decisions.

Thank you to all that attended the Year 10 to 11 Information Night on Wednesday and a quick reminder about the Year 9 -10 Information Night on Wednesday 26th July, commencing at 7p.m. in the "Shed".

Please look closely at the calendar at the end of this week's bulletin and note all the key dates this term. Two that everyone needs in their diaries are 24th August which is Curriculum Day and 12th of September which is when parent teacher interviews will be held. PTN bookings open on September 4th.

VICSRC Congress

Run by students, for students, the Victorian Student Representative Council brings students from all across the state together to discuss, implement and act on issues that truly matter to their education. This year with many thanks to Ormond College in the University of Melbourne, Canis Nugroho, Sarah Ghassali and myself (Rowan Maher) were fortunate enough to represent Gleneagles over this three-day event, where we collaborated with like-minded student leaders on powerful matters regarding our education system.

Commencing on the 10th of June, we first met the other 350 eager students involved in this experience then we were further refined into action groups, clusters of students that were concerned with a similar topic. As a group, the Gleneagles team explored the idea that students should be defined by their ability at school, rather than their age and with this idea, our group of 17 from varying locations further refined the idea, elaborated on implementation strategies then finally, pitched our scheme to the Congress crew at open morning along with many other prestigious leaders including Victorian Education Minister James Merlino and Commissioner for Children and Young People Liana Buchanan. Overall, the experience was one that will never be forgotten, from the daily free time sessions in which we intensely enjoyed card games to the Mad Hatter Gala dinner where we dressed in our most daring costumes, the camp proved to us all that we students, are the future and it is our job to speak out and spark change.



Written by Rowan Maher, 10E

2018 Chinese Exchange

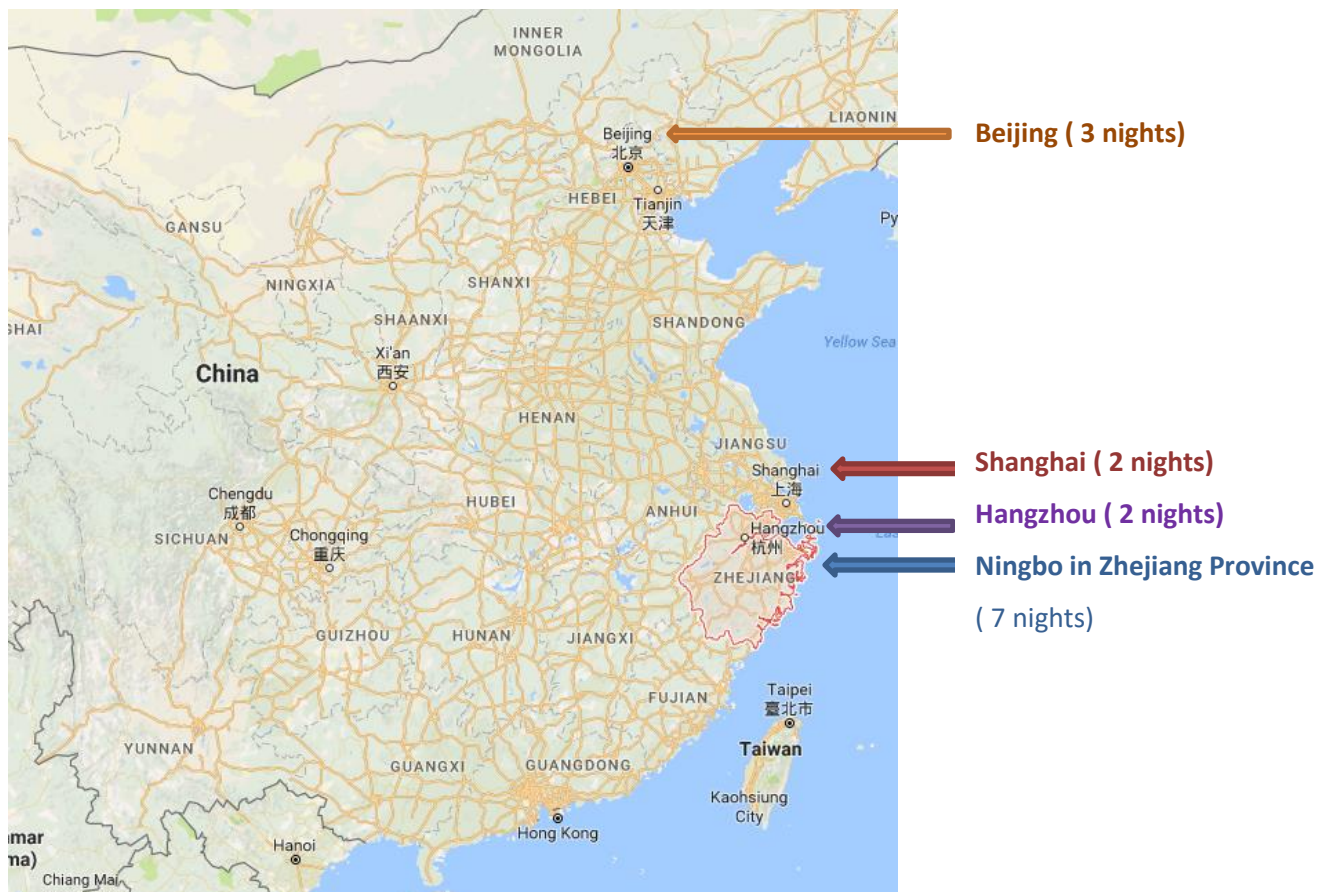
In 2015, Gleneagles Secondary College introduced Chinese (Mandarin) as our third language and we now have students studying this language in year 7 – 9 with year 10 following on next year. Ms Zhang is our wonderful Chinese teacher and she has been keen to explore an exchange trip for our students to China in 2018.

Gleneagles Secondary College is forming a sister school relationship with Yang Xianjiang Senior School which is located in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province which is just south of Shanghai. Yang Xianjiang Senior School is a well-regarded school where students have to meet high academic standards to enrol. Shortly, we will have a formal agreement between the two schools to facilitate an exchange every two years, starting in 2018.

Students currently in year 8 and 9 who are studying Chinese have received information about the current plans for our trip to China in 2018 with students from our sister school coming to our College in term 1, 2019.

Students are asked to complete an expression of interest form and return it to Ms Zhang by Friday 11 August.

This overseas opportunity completes our German Exchange, World Challenge expedition and the SEAL Europe trips. An Indonesian trip is being discussed too! Gleneagles students are encouraged to think globally and through these language based opportunities, experience living in a country where they have to practice their language skills 24/7!





SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT STEP FOR THOSE SLEEPING ROUGH: GOVERNMENT-OWNED ADDRESSES

If you had the opportunity to write a piece of legislation that could create positive change in Victoria, what issue would you focus on?

Year 11 Politics students from Gleneagles Secondary College are taking their passion for reducing homelessness to Parliament House, in a bill calling for Government-owned addresses to be provided for the homeless.

Drawing on statistics, such as the fact over 22,000 Victorians were recorded as homeless on Census night in 2011, team member Clarissa Cornelius emphasised the importance of “striking while the knife is hot” and tackling the problem head on.

Their bill calls for letterboxes to be set up at local council buildings and local libraries for the homeless. This would allow those without a fixed address to have a mailing address so they can apply for jobs, benefits and have the capacity to receive other forms of correspondence as required.

Christina Jayaseelan, another Gleneagles Secondary College student, was quick to explain that the team was aware that conventional homelessness advocacy revolves around providing stable accommodation to those in need.

She also stressed that their bill has the tangible benefits which would help vulnerable citizens break the homelessness cycle. Ms Jayaseelan outlined that this will then form the foundation for bigger actions, rather than continuing to discuss but not implement “large, impractical solutions.”

The main point of contention was the idea that government owned addresses would require verification of homelessness. The chamber argued that providing homeless people with those an identification card could be seen as further stigmatising. Ultimately, the bill passed in a conscious vote and will be handed over to Minister of Youth Affairs Jenny Mikakos at the conclusion of Youth Parliament 2017.

Fatima Mozaffari concluded the debate powerfully as she said, “[it is time for us to stop] looking away not only from the person on the street but from the issue entirely.”



A Night at Queens College – Melbourne University

Imagine living in a town without little children... A town where most of the population is the same age as you and has the same occupation as you.

As a Kwong Lee Dow Scholar, I was invited to stay overnight at Melbourne University. The day began with revision lectures given by VCE Exam Assessors, who also gave us tips and tricks to be efficient in exams and explained to us what they look for when marking. Instead of having to remember every graph transformation in Methods, we were simply told that all transformations inside the bracket affect the graph in the reverse x-direction whilst transformations outside the bracket affect it in the y-axis. You must also use your previous answer if the question begins with “hence” or else you will lose marks.

During our overnight stay at Queens College, we all had individual rooms with our own beds and personal study table. Our guest speaker Lou, a student who had just graduated and stayed at College during her university years, emphasised how staying in the Colleges helped her ‘bridge’ between high school and living in the outside world as an adult. It gave her the responsibilities of an adult in the real world, such as supporting herself financially and looking after her ‘house’.

At Gleneagles, there are numerous clubs and activities. But at University, there is a club for everything; there’s even a chocolate club. There’s no reason why you shouldn’t join all the ones you like. It is a great way to make new friends and make value of your very few years at university.

For all Year 12 students, I know you will have an exciting life at university. Just keep pushing through these last 6 months. All the best for your VCE!

Canis Nugroho



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

<i>Wednesday 26th July</i>	Year 10 & 11 German Day Out Year 9-10 Parent Information Night 7.00 p.m. Year 11 & 12 Studio Arts excursion – MUMA & Blindside Gallery
<i>Thursday 27th July</i>	Australian Mathematics Competition Year 9 & 10 visit to Hallam – students nominate to attend
<i>Monday 31st July</i>	Year 10 – 11 Course Counselling Note: No Year 10 classes on this day. Student & parent(s) attend a counselling interview, by appointment
<i>Tuesday 1st August</i>	UNSW English Competition German Exchange meeting in the library 6.00p.m.
<i>Monday 7th -11th August</i>	Year 11-12 subject selection with VCE sub-school leaders
<i>Monday 7th August</i>	VTAC applications open for Year 12 students

Wednesday 9 th August NB Now a week earlier	Year 9 – 10 course counselling – no year 9 classes scheduled Counselling by appointment – details to be published
Thursday 10 th August Note change of date	Year 8 – 9 elective selection process. Normal school day. Students called from class
Friday 11 th August	Year 8 Hockey, basketball
Monday 14 th August	VCE Special Programs Day
Thursday 17 th August NB Now a week later	School Assembly Period 1 – High Achievers Recognition NB Parents of award recipients will receive an invitation week of 24/7
Thursday 17 th August	Indonesian event to celebrate Indonesian Independence Day (lunchtime)
Friday 18 th August	Year 9 Romeo & Juliet incursion Year 7 Hockey and Basketball
Saturday 19 th August	Human Powered Vehicle Bendigo Grand Prix
Wednesday 23 rd August	Variety Night
Thursday 24 th August	Curriculum Day – no students required to attend school
Friday 25 th August	Year 10 Ski trip
Saturday 26 th August	Presentation Ball
Tuesday 29 th August	Intermediate Hockey & basketball
Monday 4 th September or Tuesday 5 th September	Yr 10 excursion to the Holocaust centre Home groups will be allocated to one of the two days – details to follow
Monday 4 th September	Parent teacher booking system opens for parent bookings
Thursday 7 th September	Year 7 Immunisations Division athletics
Thursday 7 th September	Schools on Stage performance
Friday 8 th September to Saturday October 7 th	German Exchange students overseas
Tuesday 12 th September	Parent Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 13 th September	Year 7 Art Excursion – National Gallery of Victoria
Friday 22 nd September	Last day of term 3 Yr11 Sociology excursion – Barwon prison
Monday 25 th September - Thursday 28 th September	Unit 3 & 4 Exam Preparation Sessions (held during the school holidays)
Thursday 28 th September	Year 12 - VTAC applications close