



Welcome to new and returning students and staff. The year has begun in a very smooth manner and I congratulate students on the professional and workman like approach that they have taken towards their studies so far this year.

1. Staffing Arrangements

- I would like to welcome new staff to Sevenoaks Senior College. Mr Jade Kulesza has joined the Canning Skills Program along with Ms Terri Lambin. Ms Lynn Cooke has joined the Industry Access team and Ms Mai Zhao is now working in the Business and Information Technology area. Mrs Jenni Hood is also back with us this year as our VET Coordinator and Hospitality teacher. Welcome also to Sarah Proctor who is helping us in the College reception area this term. Welcome back to Mrs Brenda Earl, Mrs Kath Murray and Mr Merv Alcock who have been on long service leave and a special welcome back to Mr John Duncan.
- Mr Dave Proctor continues as Vice Principal (Acting). Dave has a range of duties, however, at this time of year most students and parents would know Dave because of his enrolment role.
- Mr Craig Lynch our Level 3 Student Services Coordinator is located in the front office where he is helping with a variety of day to day operational and student service tasks. Craig is also working with students if they require any subject changes. Students need to make an appointment in order to be able to see him if they have issues with their timetable.
- Ms Lisa Gee is working each morning in the Student Services Office. Lisa can help students with parking, sporting equipment hire, collection of monies (for a variety of reasons including the College Ball). Lisa also manages the SMS Wireless messaging service. Our SMS messaging service contacts parents/guardians twice daily to let them know if their son/daughter is absent from class. It is essential that the College has the correct parent mobile number. If you have had a new mobile number please contact Lisa at the College so that we can update our records.

2 Programs and Events

- Our first College Assembly was held last week and I was delighted to see almost every student in our College uniform. There is a good stock of College polo shirts available at the reception area. Well done to all students for working with us on this matter. A reminder to parents and students that thongs, slip on sandals and other clothing items that do not match our uniform requirements are not to be worn.
- The first **P&C meeting** for 2007 will take place at 7.30pm in the College Board room on **Tuesday 20 February**. I urge any interested parent/guardian to come along, spend some time learning about the College and to get involved in projects that support our students.
- A **Parent Information Evening** will take place on **Wednesday 14 February at 6.00pm** in the College Lecture Theatre. This one hour session is designed to inform parent/guardians of new students about Sevenoaks Senior College, our programs, facilities and resources. I urge parents of our new students (Year 11 and Year 12) to come along, listen to staff, ask questions and take a tour of our exceptional campus.
- **Student Guild Elections** will take place on **28 March 2007**. Mr Craig Lynch is organising these elections and within the next week students who are interested in running for election will be required to start their campaigns. Good luck to all candidates!
- Sevenoaks Senior College staff returned to work on Wednesday 24 January 2007. Professional development time was assigned for discussion focusing on recent Curriculum Council developments regarding curriculum, course review and assessment. Reforms to the way teachers assess courses and the introduction of compulsory exams before graduation for all Year 12 students (except for those doing trade certificates – 1 unit courses need only submit grades) and several other updates were provided to staff from the Curriculum Council. Ms Ariell Rose, the College Level 3 Curriculum Coordinator is working with administrative staff to ensure all teachers are aware of current WACE requirements and assessment procedures and to disseminate Curriculum Council information promptly.
- Sevenoaks Senior College is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) in our own right under the Vocational Education for Schools arrangements. At the end of 2006 a full Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) RTO audit was completed and our College was fully compliant in all industry areas. Because we are a Registered Training Organisation we have the capacity to deliver National Training Qualifications in the areas of Information Technology, Hospitality and Business. Many of our

current students have enrolled in these VET programs and are well on the way to securing excellent career opportunities. In 2006 Sevenoaks Senior College VET student **Ashleigh Ross-Parker** received a **2006 Australian Vocational Student Prize** for her exceptional achievements as a school based trainee. Each year Sevenoaks Senior College supports many School Based Trainees including those students in our well developed Aboriginal School Based Traineeship program.

- This year Sevenoaks Senior College has a number of **Industry Specific Programs** that involve our students accessing TAFE one day per week. Students (approximately 120) in these programs study a broad and general selection of Curriculum Council subjects that allows them to achieve secondary graduation as well as learning about industry areas such as Building and Construction, Metals and Engineering, Beauty, Business, Retail, Tourism and Hospitality. Partial and full qualifications completed at TAFE make up part of the students capacity to achieve secondary graduation. These students are regularly employed by industry as apprentices and go on to full employment with generous workplace returns.
- All Year 11 students participate in a unique **Learning Skills** program (not negotiable). This program is designed to provide students with essential skills to improve their interactions across all learning areas (eg. time management, study and exam preparation, referencing texts, cybernetix, note taking, reading and reviewing texts). Ms Saskia Gout developed and coordinates 'Learning Skills', a one lesson per week subject that runs for semester one. Students 'graduate' if all work is completed otherwise they will continue with Learning Skills in semester two.
- **Advocacy** occurs every Wednesday from 10.20am until 11.20 am. All students have an Advocate teacher who supports and helps them. New students will already have met their Advocate. Parents and guardians need to be aware that your son or daughter's Advocate teacher will be making contact with you to introduce themselves either this week or next week.
- Students received a **College Diary** that provides details of a number of our important policies. The diary also has a term planner for each term this year. The planner provides information about exams, reporting timelines and other College events. I urge all parents to read through the opening section of the diary where information about student attendance, behaviour, uniform, safety, access and equity, assessment, library use, information technology access and use, driving and parking, smoking and College evacuation is detailed.

3. Attendance Priority 2007

- There is a direct link between student attendance, achievement and sense of belonging at school. At Sevenoaks Senior College students have a flexible timetable where some class zones may be free on a students' timetable. It is absolutely essential that all students attend every class. Skipping zones is a recipe for disaster. Students should develop a study pattern where their free zones are utilised to complete homework or to work on class tasks. This year we have in place a new **Attendance Reward Program** where excellent student attendance is recognised and rewarded. Parents and guardians can play their part in helping us manage student attendance. Students should only be away from their College classes if they have a legitimate reason (eg. they are ill or have a medical appointment). If a student is not attending a class or classes parents will be notified each day via SMS messaging that their child has been absent from the College. If you know that your son or daughter has an appointment or is going to be away because of illness, please notify the College by telephone or in writing as quickly as possible. This will help us in our endeavours to monitor and manage student attendance.

4. Student Services and Activities

- Preparation is underway for our student Guild Elections which are to be held on March 28 2007. Students will be receiving more information from Mr Craig Lynch.
- The College Ball will be held on Wednesday April 4 2007 at the Government House Ballroom. Students who are interested in being a member of the College Ball Committee can register their interest with their Advocate this Wednesday. Craig will meet with interested

students next week. Students need to keep an eye out on the College television monitors for the first meeting time and date.

- A number of sporting teams will be representing the College this year. If you are an AFL player, soccer (football) player, volleyball player or rugby union player watch this space – team information will be coming to you very soon!

5. Information Technology

- The College has recently managed the implementation of the Learning with ICT (previously the 100 schools project) initiative which has impacted on the information technology infrastructure of our College.
- Currently we are also taking part in an Online Teaching and Learning trial which involves using a new online curriculum system that may one day replace our existing WebCT system. Mrs Kath Murray is coordinating our involvement in this new trial. Many of our students will be accessing work via the new Online Teaching and Learning portal (currently being loaded onto a number of computers in the College). Approximately 20 staff members will be participating in professional development on Online Teaching and Learning over the next term.
- The College boasts over 400 computers across its campus. Sixty eight new computers were installed over the break ready for students at the start of this year. We are very proud of our information technology capacity and we expect students to manage their use of the College computers in a professional manner.

6. Community and Business Partnerships

- We have a number of outstanding community projects continuing to run this year. The first involves Kayleen Harward and many of our students entertaining and spending time with elderly Aboriginal women at the Winsor Park Nursing Home and other nursing homes. Our students are learning from this unique voluntary experience. They are sharing talk stories with the elderly patients and are also singing and playing musical instruments to them. The College intends to maintain this program that involves many of our Aboriginal students.
- Mr Fettes Falconer continues to work with students, community organisations and educational institutions to develop his award winning 'Sustainable Schools' initiatives. Many students and teachers are working with Mr Falconer to develop their environment knowledge and sustainability skills.
- Recently Sevenoaks Senior College has participated in a project with *Millennium Kids*. *Millennium Kids* is a unique organisation that is run by students, for students aged 10 – 25 years and aims to encourage young people to be environmental and civic leaders by being active and aware of their environment and community. We intend to continue our links with *Millennium Kids* this year.
- I would like to thank the City of Canning for supporting our *Attendance Reward Program*. The Council is very supportive of our College and we appreciate their involvement in this new initiative. Sevenoaks campus houses the Canning Youth Centre, a great drop in location for our students and a safe, supervised place for them to enjoy games, music and catching up with each other.



DR KATH PARTRIDGE
PRINCIPAL

5 February 2007

