Brunswick SC Homework Clubs

Brunswick Secondary College offers its students a selection of after school Homework Clubs. Monday afternoons are devoted to Maths Help. The sessions are very well attended by students and Mathematics teachers. The Tuesday and Thursday afternoon Homework Clubs provide assistance in English, ESL, Humanities, Mathematics, Science and all other subjects. In this semester, we have introduced hot drinks and snacks at the start of the session as an incentive for more students to attend the Tuesday and Thursday Homework Clubs. We have also moved all Homework Clubs to a consistent space, room F2, in the Year 9 Learning Centre. To students who regularly attend Homework Club, congratulations. You are making a positive choice. To students who used to attend, we invite you back. The opportunity to receive assistance with your individual questions and concerns is a benefit too significant to overlook. To students who have never attended a Homework Club at Brunswick, our warmest encouragement to give it a try. Of our eight work practices at Brunswick Secondary College, the two I see as most important are “Seeks and acts on feedback“ and “Improves understanding through questions and discussion“. Students who make the effort to do these in class and also at Homework Club are, without question, maximising their chance of achieving their best. The following quotes from teachers and students who were at Maths Help this past Monday afternoon give a glimpse of the value that one of our three Homework Clubs provides to students and teachers.

**Vivienne Tellefson, Principal**

I come because I feel more motivated to do work when I’m in a room full of students working hard. I get the chance to ask questions and get help with questions that I may have struggled with at home.

**Rachael Hocking, yr 12**

I come to try and not fail SACs. So far my SAC scores have been rising.

**Holly Moore, yr 11**

I come to help the students. I love seeing those “Aha!” moments when students understand something and also I just like it. It also helps my students understanding and confidence in my classes.

**Liam O’Grady, Teacher**

I come to give the students the best chance to fulfil their maximum potential. I get a sense of achievement and pride.

**Freddy Stringer, Teacher**
Year 7 Update

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Third term started smoothly with students adapting with ease to room changes, new timetables and in some cases new teachers. On the first day, the Year 7 students gathered in the auditorium to reflect on their first semester goals and to set new goals for the second semester. In their reflections, many students indicated that they have improved in their work practices and that they have achieved their goals. In the second week of term, I commenced meeting with the students whose reports indicated they have poor work practices. When meeting with these particular students we reviewed the results of their most recent work practices to those they received earlier in the year and discussed whether the latest results showed a trend towards improvement. Students talked about their goals and their responsibility towards improving their learning. I found the discussions with students very worthwhile, as students were able to articulate the difficulties they had faced, and hence we could focus on action that they can take to improve. I was very pleased to hear from students that their work practices had improved. We all want what is best for them, but success does require them to be diligent and commit to doing the work required to the best of their ability. Setting learning goals and an action plan can help students focus on what they need to achieve. When writing their goals students are asked not just to state the goal but also to indicate what they can do to help them achieve their goals. Reflecting on themselves as learners can help them:

- become more aware of their strengths and weaknesses;
- identify what they have learnt and what they need to learn;
- and consider how they can improve their learning and specific skills.

Students, who believe that their successes have permanent causes do well and will continue to try hard in the future. When students do their best and have a sense of achievement they can build their connections with school and continue to strive to do their best.

Learning in Term 3:

In Art, Year 7 classes will focus on developing personal symbols. They will look at the qualities of symbols, and how symbols are used to communicate meaning in other cultures. Their personal symbol designs will be used to construct papier-mâché sculptures. All Year 7 students are involved in learning a language other than English (LOTE). We offer students the opportunity to learn Arabic, Chinese and Italian. A large component of the LOTE program is to develop vocabulary and language structures so that the students can communicate both verbally and in the written form. Some of the topics that will be covered include ‘Days, Months and Seasons’ (Arabic); ‘Countries and Language’ (Chinese); and ‘The Family’ and ‘Animals’ (Italian). In English, the focus will be around the novel ‘Chinese Cinderella’. The work will include students identifying, discussing and recording broad issues and themes included in the novel. As a component of their English assessment, students will be required to write a newspaper article about one significant event from the novel using the computer program Publisher, or something similar. This term students will continue to reinforce their writing and editing skills. In Maths, students will continue to revise and reinforce their understanding of the four processes and will focus on Chance and Data strand of Maths. Students will be required to collect and analyse data, and solve day-to-day problems using data. They will also work with number patterns helping them identify whether a given whole number is divisible by certain simple numbers without using calculations. This term, geography will be a major component of the Humanities course and the areas of study will include deserts and endangered species. The students will be able to demonstrate new knowledge through written work and oral presentations. Although students are given a choice to how they could present their learning, they will be required to research, locate and interpret relevant information, and it is important that they use the set criteria pertaining to the project. In Science classes, as part of the Living Things unit of study, students will focus on Cells and Systems, and Classification. Some of the science activities will involve students in practical tasks such as searching for living things such as insects. They will use microscopes to observe cells and then record their observations according to the prescribed criteria. Later this term, the students will visit the zoo to reinforce their learning on this topic and support them in completing their graded assessment task.

In my last bulletin, I mentioned that I asked some students to record their Year 7 journey. I thank Greta and Riccardo for letting me print their journeys.

Nadia Cavallin
Year 7 Coordinator

From Greta Duff

(7S)

16th February (journey entry commenced) - The First Day: In a brand new uniform, I set off to a friend’s house. It was weird seeing my friends in uniforms. I was feeling a bit nervous but really excited to get to school. Celeste and I stopped at the line saying ‘and now we are in Year 7’. Lockers were one of my main worries as I thought I would forget the combination but so far, it has been good. The First Few Weeks: These past few weeks have just felt like one long orientation day even though we have homework. So far, I have enjoyed Brunswick Secondary College and I look forward to doing new things such as joining the A Team in hockey, doing the Rock Eisteddfod (if it is going ahead) and making new friends. Secondary school is a bit different to primary school as
After the holidays were great except for the homework. I almost lost yesterday but managed to find the room. I have managed my locker combination except for this morning when I had forgotten the first number. I had to call my dad to tell me the number! Now there is more and more homework but I am handling it well. Everyone (year 7) seems to have settled in very well. The Rocka is on, kind of. It is a long story, so now we are calling it ‘Rock Instead of’. I am hoping to get on the A Team in Netball. This is because I play outside of school and would like to get to the State competition with BSC. Hockey does not start until Term 3, so I have heaps of time to get prepared. At school, we are doing more and more interesting things each day. Our home group teacher reckons we should be on the debating team because our class talks so much.

On the first day of high school everything was different. There were many changes such as getting used to going to the lockers and getting books organised for the different periods. On the first day, I did not know anyone in my classes but after a while, I made friends with the class and got to know everyone. The work is easy so far and I am getting used to getting homework from each subject teacher. The teachers are friendly and you get to know them. Every day is a new beginning at this school. We make friends with people in and outside our pastoral groups. I am getting used to going to the different classrooms around the school. The teachers showed us where to put our homework if he or she is not at school. Sometimes at the start of the school day, some students do not know where to go but teachers are around to help you. I am looking forward the year.

From Riccardo De La Paz (7R)

(First entry) 16th February 2010: The first day of high school felt weird because everything was different. We have some work to do. Boy, did I have heaps of GATs due last term. On my last count, I had eight GATs due at the one time! But all was good. I got them in on time. Hockey starts this term. I am hoping there will be a team. I am hoping that there will be a girl’s team. I have not had much homework, so I have a lot of spare time to fill. You know how I was talking about us going on the debating team, well our home group teacher managed to get half of the class on the team. I hope that this term will be as fun as the last two terms!

Schoolwork is easy to do when we have the teacher’s help. This term is a lot more different to last term as people know the teachers better and we have developed our friendships. We got library cards so it is easier to borrow books from the school library. I also get from my lockers to class faster than in term 1. We have Sport and Food classes, which I love because I love to play sport and I love to cook in Food classes. At lunchtime, we can play on the hockey field and go to the library. Most of the time, I hang around F Block, where there are ping-pong tables and computers in classrooms. Every day is exciting. I cannot wait until Year 8.

Tuesday 1st June 2010: It is near the end of term two and I am used to different teachers including the Art teachers around the school. I have personally enjoyed Science. I enjoyed all the experiments and tests that we have done. The school has bought laptops for the students to use in class. So far, I have used them twice, once in SOSE and once in Italian. In Sport, my class goes to the gym outside school. The gym is a two-minute walk from the school. We also have a gym in the school. In science, we just did a test. I reckon I did well because we have been given time to study for it in class. Next term I am in cooking. I am looking forward to that. This term I have done music as a specialist subject.

(First entry) Thursday 22nd July 2010: It is the second week of term 3. We have new electives and I am in Food where I will learn to cook different things. This term I have a new English teacher. We have a library session every second Thursday and we can borrow books. In English, we are reading Chinese Cinderella, which is about an unwanted daughter. This term for interschool sports we have basketball, table tennis and footsal. This term, for Science we were going to go to the zoo. The zoo visit will help us with our Graded Assessment Task. I am looking forward to the term.

Senior Interschool Debating

There are some nights when it is even more rewarding than usual to watch our debating teams, and Round 4 of the Senior Interschool Debating Competition was one of them.

It was an absolute pleasure to watch our D-Grade team of Mia Lickliter, Daniel Lee and Amelia Constable present their arguments on the very challenging topic, “That Judges Should be Elected.” Although we work together to discuss the topic and come up with our arguments, the students are always entirely responsible for finalising their arguments and writing their own speeches. This means that when students present complex arguments in an articulate, eloquent and persuasive way, as Mia, Daniel and Amelia did on Wednesday evening, the credit is entirely theirs. Congratulations to the team for a well-deserved win against a strong opposition, and to Daniel for winning best-speaker.

It was also terrific to watch our A-Grade team of Holly Moore, Rachael Hocking and Gus Holian, supported by team-mates Cornelius Pelzing and Wudassie Assfaw,
present very effective and persuasive arguments on
their secret topic, “That we should ban welfare
payments to drug addicts.” The capacity of our students
to speak for 6-8 minutes, presenting cohesive and well-
thought through arguments, after only one hour of
preparation, is impressive. This is particularly so when
Rachel and Gus joined debating for the first time this
year! Congratulations to our team on a terrific effort,
although they did not win their debate on this occasion.

Round 4 of the competition was otherwise frustrating as
two of our teams had to forfeit their debates due to
competing commitments. It will be great to have all
teams back on deck for the final round of the
competition on **Wednesday 4 August 2010** at Mercy
College, 760 Sydney Rd, Coburg:

- **A Grade** - Secret Topic 7pm (debaters to arrive at
  5.45pm)
- **C Grade** – “That the police should hold the DNA of all
  Australians on a national database.” 7pm
- **D Grade** – “That smokers should be denied access to
  Medicare.” 8pm

**Junior Interschool Debating**

It was fantastic to see an unprecedented number of
students signing up for junior debating this year!
Congratulations to all year 7 and 8 students who have
returned their permission forms and have made it into
our Junior Debating Team.

Our first afterschool workshop will be held on Tuesday
24 August, 3.15 – 4pm. This will be followed by the
evening training session on Wednesday 25 August,
between 6-8.30pm. Students will be required to attend
for 1.5 hours beginning at either 6pm or 7pm. A notice
will be sent home to parents to advise of the correct
time once the DAV has notified me of which time our
school has been allocated to.

**Ms Giannakakis**
**Debating Coordinator**

**Dance Success**

We are delighted to celebrate with Harleigh-
Rose Byrne 7C and her family her first place in the
Junior level of the Australian Teachers’ of
Dance Ballet Scholarship
Competition. Harleigh-Rose
will be representing Victoria
in the national
presentations in Brisbane in
the last week of July, and
we wish her every success
in this.

**Heather Secomb**
**Assistant Principal**

**Department of Education and Early
Childhood Development**

The July 2010 edition of *Parent Update* is now
available, to view online please press control & click
on the link below

participation/parentupdate/default.htm

**Education Maintenance Allowance**

**Installment Two**

The second installment of the Education Maintenance
Allowance (EMA) payment is due to be paid from mid
August onwards for those parents/guardians who chose
the EFT payment option on their application form at the
start of the year.

Parents and guardians who lodged an EMA application
at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge
another EMA application to receive the second
installment EMA payment.

Parents/guardians whose children have transferred to
this school since 26 February 2010 will need to submit
a new EMA application form.

Applications close on **6 August 2010**.
Parents/guardians who have chosen the cheque
payment option will receive their payment from late
August / early September.

**Can You Help?**

We are looking to borrow/hire 10 Greek (costume)
vests. If you or anyone you know can help out,
please contact

*Suzanne Kurick 9387 6133*
**Music Coordinator**

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS** !!

Could all parents ensure we have accurate
contact numbers both for themselves and
for other available emergency contacts
persons (other than themselves).

**We have had several students needing medical attention recently and have not been able to contact either a parent or emergency contact.**

---

*Harleigh-Rose in her costume*
MUSIC NEWS

Junior Soiree
Monday 16th August
An opportunity for our junior music students to gain experience in developing their performance skills in an informal setting.
7.30-8.30pm
Performing Arts Room, Brunswick Secondary College
Admission free

Clocktower Music Concert
Tuesday 31st August
An evening to showcase the musical talents of our students.
7.30pm
Clocktower Centre
750 Mt. Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds
Tickets for this concert open TODAY and are available from the Clocktower Centre Box Office:
   in person
   by phone with credit card on 92243 9191
   online at www.clocktowercentre.com
Information Evenings - Subject selection (for 2011)

3 August 2010 – Yr 12 (2011) Information Evening: 7 – 8 pm Auditorium

17 August 2010 – Yr 11+ VET (2011) EXPO : 3.30 – 4.30 Performing Arts Room

17 August 2010 – Yr 11+ VET (2011) Information Evening: 7 – 8 pm Auditorium

23 August 2010 – Yr 11 VCAL + VET Information Evening: 7 – 8 pm Library

30 August 2010 – Yr 10 (2011) + Early Start Information Evening: 7 – 8 pm Auditorium

2 September 2010 – Yr 10 Pre-VCAL Information Evening: 7 – 8 pm Library

Education Maintenance Allowance

The EMA cheques are now available to collect from the front office for those parents who applied for Semester one payment.

Student Medical Conditions

Could parents of students who have anaphylaxis or other serious medical conditions please hand in a completed action plan for your child to the front office. If your child has a medical condition that the school needs to be aware of, please contact the level coordinator or Jeremy (school nurse).

BSC Office hours are between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Phone calls and office enquiries outside these hours will be recorded by the answering machine.

NB: If you are contacting the school to let us know your child is going to be absent, you can also e-mail the school on Brunswick.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

Brunswick Secondary College
47 Dawson Street Brunswick 3056
Telephone 9387 6133
Facsimile 9387 0061
Email Brunswick.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au
Web www.brunswick.vic.edu.au
You are invited to attend the Year 9 Learning Expo. The event is scheduled from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, 12th August.

Venue: f Block Learning Centre

Come see the projects year 9’s have been working on!