Student Leadership Camp Reflection

Following article written by Sarah White, College Captain

Standing on water, flying over a rock filled gorge, finding your inner director - just a few amazing things I and other senior leaders were fortunate enough to experience on the Leadership Camp. Well in all honesty we really learnt the tricky skill of paddle boarding, jumped into infinity attached to a flying fox and began to contemplate the complex workings of our House Performance. But still this overnight camp was an experience of a lifetime; an opportunity for each of us to grow not only as individuals but as a communal leadership group and a camp filled with optimism and excitement for 2015.

Upon arrival it is safe to say we were all a little tired from our first day back at school, yet somehow we all managed to search inside ourselves and find a little drop of energy for the afternoon's activities. Lucky we did, otherwise none of us would have had the opportunity to find our balance on the water or face our fears flying over the Gorong Rocks. Yet this was not all. The activities we proceeded to complete forced us all to think outside the box, to work as a team and sometimes even in silence.

This camp was a tremendous way for those who attended to kick start our final year at the College and gave us a chance to connect as not only individual groups of leaders but as one whole.

Leadership Camp Photos, January 2015

Year 12 "Ready, Set...VCE" Day Reflection

Following article written by Diane Rufus, Senior School Head of Teaching and Learning
On Wednesday 4th February, Year 12s traveled to RMIT in the city for a motivational kick start to what will be an exciting, exhausting and energetic final year of school life. This is the second year we have run the program "Ready, Set...VCE" day and once again it proved to be highly successful and informative. Students were addressed by the inspirational words of Tristan Miller, a marathon runner whose message emphasised the need for short term and long term goals and to ‘go for’ what you want. Tristan reminded students to never give up, no matter what barriers they encounter. Students witnessed images of Tristan’s journey around the globe as he completed his dream of 52 marathons in 52 weeks across seven continents. In his humility he spoke about the importance of education in opening the doors to understanding the world. After his speech students spent time in small groups reflecting on their own learning styles and then being presented with some goal setting strategies from Elevate Education facilitators.

A few students took the time to email me about the day, here are their comments;

"Hi Mrs Rufus,

Here's what I thought of today.

The day at RMIT was an awesome day and really taught me how to make my last year of schooling really count. I learnt that just simply aiming for the end is not enough, but that I need to set myself small achievable goals that will hopefully result in that final major goal, such as attaining the ATAR I need or completing an Art folio to the best of my ability. Tristan Miller, the man who ran 52 marathons in 52 weeks inspired me to go ahead with any ideas I have, no matter how out of reach they may seem at the time. He lives his life as his own, without boundaries and with a fully optimistic mind set, not letting people who say “he can’t” stop him. That mind set made him very successful and, most importantly, very happy.

The workshop with Elevate was extremely helpful as it taught me that I do not have to be born as a ‘natural’ but just have to make the most of the resources I have at school, do my best in study and know that it will come together in the end, as long as I put in the hard work through the year. I know all that I learned in the "Ready, Set...VCE" day will be a great reference when I am stressed out and feeling disorganised, as the resources I was given help with how I can deal and overcome all of that."

by Janay Casas-Vysma

“The day really reassured me that I don’t have to give up what I love doing in order to be successful with my schooling. It was really positive to learn about the life of someone truly inspirational who went from a wreck to a world known motivator and runner.”

by Sean Ferguson

If you would like to hear more about Tristan Miller’s story click on the following link Tristan Miller.

Thanks to all the teachers who helped facilitate the day and we hope the Year 12 students are ready to go…… because we are!
Year 12 Parent Forum

A Year 12 Parent Forum will be held on **Thursday 26th February**, 7.30pm in the Senior School Atrium. The aim of this forum is to assist Year 12 parents to support their son/daughter through their final year at the College and into post-secondary options. The forum will provide an opportunity to discuss and ask questions on topics such as; how to maximise the Year 12 experience, Year 12 assessment and examinations, understanding the tertiary admissions system and pastoral support for students. Refreshments will also be provided.

This is an event for Year 12 parents and therefore students are not required to attend. If you are interested in attending this forum, please register your attendance for catering purposes. You can register by logging onto [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and using the Event Code: 66QAE or via our [College website](http://collegewebsite) under the ‘Events Booking’ tab.

House Swimming Carnival

On Monday 16th February, all Senior School students will be involved in our first House carnival for the year. This is a terrific day to enjoy each other's company outside of the classroom, have fun, show House pride and spirit and see which House will be victorious in the first event for the year.

Making connections outside of the classroom and participating in House events all helps to develop a student's sense of belonging, discover new talents and passions and show their support for their peers. This is a compulsory school day and all absences need to be approved with a parent note/email (prior to the day if possible).

As in previous years, all students must wear their sports uniform to and from school, however, Year 12 students may get changed into House themed costumes once at the venue. Students are reminded to bring along hats and sunscreen, and when they are not competing, must be covered up to ensure they are being sun smart. We look forward to this event being another great carnival for all of Senior School.

Year 11 Presentation Ball Committee

There are still a couple of vacancies to be a part of the Year 11 Presentation Ball Committee. If you have a son or daughter in Year 11 this year and would like to join the committee that helps to plan, organise and co-ordinate this event, please email your expression of interest to the Head of Senior School, Lauren Old.

Coming Events

**Thursday 12th February**
Year 10 Information Night, 7pm-8.30pm

**Monday 16th February**
House Swimming Carnival

**Wednesday 25th February**
Year 10 Immunisations

**Thursday 26th February**
Year 12 Parent Forum, 7.30pm, Senior School Atrium

**Friday 6th March**
Schools Alive Tours

**Monday 9th March**
Labour Day Holiday

**Thursday 12th March**
Senior School Parent/Teacher Interviews (surnames ending A-L)

**Friday 13th March**
Senior School year level presentations with Paul Dillon

**Monday 16th March**
Parent Education Evening - Digital Technology Workshop, Sports and Performing Arts Building, Keilor Campus, 7.00pm

**Tuesday 17th March**
Senior School Parent/Teacher Interviews (surnames ending M-Z)

**Friday 20th March**
ACS Swimming Carnival

**Tuesday 24th March**
House Performance

**Friday 27th March**
Last day of Term 1