End of year celebrations

As the year comes to a close, it is important that student success is celebrated. Lakeview has a culture of celebrating the academic and personal successes of students through year level assemblies and also whole cohort events such as the Year 12 Formal, the year 11 Big Day Out and the Year 10 Social. Each of these events was again well attended in 2015 and it was fantastic to see staff and students enjoy each other’s company in these forums. Each of these events enables students to celebrate the year in a safe, fun and inclusive manner. The year 10 formal also provided year 10 students and staff to farewell Stav Bekiaris, the year 10 Leading Teacher, through speeches and unique gifts. It was moving to see over 280 students spontaneous stand to applaud the support, encouragement and passion that Stav has provided them with over the year. The Year 11 Big Day Out was again held at an Adventure Park in Geelong enabling staff and students to relax together and enjoy water slides, mini golf, archery, bumper cars, rides, jump up castle and much much more. The wide variety of activities available at the park enables all students to actively take part and a fun day was had by all. The year 12 formal is the last event where staff and students come together as a whole cohort. The evening was held at Lakeside Reception Centre and was a special mix of joy, nostalgia and melancholy as memories were created and shared with the knowledge that this part of their journey is now over. A photo booth and Lakeview mementos are a special touch organised by the year 12 team enabling staff and students to transport some of this joy home.

Transition Programs

Our transition program has also continued with the year 10s completing their first week of year 11 VCE, VCAL and VET classes. Despite finding this experience quite daunting, the students launched into their new classes with gusto and determination. Student attendance was high across the week and staff were pleased by the commitment and maturity displayed. Many students also ventured out to other schools to attend information sessions about their VET subjects or school based apprenticeships as our community partnerships with both the Melton and Brimbank clusters continue to provide our students with a range of exciting TAFE options. The second hand book sale was also once again a success, thanks to the organisation and leadership of Mark Jones and the cheerful enthusiasm of the PSD team. These sales have become an integral part of Lakeview’s culture as they provide an affordable alternative to many of our families.

Feeder College Partnerships

We continue to work closely with our feeder schools across term four in a range of different ways. All year 9 students are provided with the opportunity to access an accelerated subject at Lakeview and 84 students successfully passed the application process which involved submitting a written application, collecting references, undergoing a TORCH test and interview. During the year 11 commencement program, we worked closely with our feeder colleges to ensure that every one of these 84 students were able to meet their year 11 teachers and fellow classmates through attending a double period of classes. All feedback from these students was exceptionally positive as they felt supported and excited; with many commenting on the “quiet” “work focussed” nature of the classroom environments. They especially enjoyed the “warmth” and inclusive nature of the staff and enjoyed being welcomed by past students from each of the Colleges with whom they now share classes. This has created a real buzz of anticipation about our year 9 into 10 transition classes which have commenced today and will finish on Wednesday.
For the first time, we have also run revision/study skills lectures for Creekside students. The Teaching and Learning team and Assistant Principals presented three workshops which Creekside students and staff rotated through: Summarising, Memorising and Applying. These lectures were a great opportunity for the year 9s to acclimatise themselves to the expectations of Lakeview prior to commencement. We also enjoyed this opportunity to work alongside Creekside staff to align our practice and pedagogy and are looking forward to more opportunities like this in 2016.

Scholarships

A number of our students have been successfully in attaining scholarships which recognise and support their academic excellence. Three year 10 students, Jasmine Debono, Mina Brtovska and Thylin Tran were each successful in attaining a Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship through the University of Melbourne. This is particularly impressive as Melbourne University very rarely award these certificates and opportunities to more than one student in any given school. Evan Evgeniadi, a year 11 student in 2016, was successful in attaining a scholarship from the Skyline Foundation. This will greatly support Evan’s continued success in our Sport and Recreation Program. Yai Ayung has been awarded the John Cummins Memorial Fund Award in recognition of the impact he has made within his cultural community. We are very proud of each of these students as they actively model and promote our school values of respect, responsibility and personal achievement.

Student Leadership

Our students are continuing to seek leadership opportunities and willingly give up their own time to contribute to culture of individual success at Lakeview. A number of current accelerated students gave up their time to provide year 9 students with advice at the Revision lecture as they presented alongside their Lakeview teachers. A number of our VCAL students have offered their time to be Lakeview Ambassadors at the Senior School Forum this week, welcoming and directing the 80 staff from other Senior Secondary Schools to the various workshops being run at Lakeview. Applications for Student Voice in 2016 have also commenced and the high numbers of interested students at years 11 and 12 are a fantastic indication of the growing culture of extra-curricular involvement at Lakeview.

Planning for 2016

This time of year also requires staff to begin planning curriculum and assessment for 2016. For many staff this often involves working in new teams and with many VCE study designs changing, this will be a significant challenge. As a result, we have dedicated time and resources to supporting staff throughout this process and will be providing them with time to meet with other VCE teachers from the other Senior Colleges in Victoria to plan together in an ongoing manner.