



## Dear Parents Guardians and Students,

### Welcome to 2012

It's great to see everybody back to school for 2012. Our gymnasium was filled to the brim during our first assembly with everyone anticipating a great year of learning. I would particularly like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and their families.

During the assembly students were encouraged to take full advantage of the opportunities that will be presented to them through the year and to make sure they take on board our College values of Relationships built on Respect and Responsibility and act in ways that support the good reputation of the school. We pride ourselves at Hallam Senior College of ensuring that our learning is underpinned by strong relationships between students, teachers and support staff, and the community.

### School Council Elections

Please see the enclosed information regarding the upcoming school council elections. Membership of school council provides an opportunity for parents to represent the school community and have a positive input into the directions and activities of the school. We encourage interested parents to consider nominating and being a part of the Hallam Senior College journey.

### Uniform

It was great to see so many of our students wearing their uniform proudly. We have a very distinctive uniform designed for flexibility and comfort. The school expects all students to wear the uniform within the guidelines and students out of uniform will be sent home to change into the correct attire.

### Textbooks and Equipment

All students know that they are in their final years of schooling and that they need to be prepared to achieve their goals and be successful in whatever program they are undertaking. A very important aspect of being prepared is to come to class with the correct equipment and textbooks. Teachers prepare learning tasks with the assumption that students have the necessary materials to engage in learning. Students are disadvantaging themselves when they attend class with no textbook. The expectation is that they have them. Parents experiencing financial difficulties with acquiring textbooks and other materials are invited to contact a member of our social work team.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Research tells us that time on task in class is critical for being successful at school. If students don't attend or are late to class that is less time they have to undertake the work necessary to be successful and achieve. At senior levels there are mandated attendance requirements to achieve a pass in most programs and certificates. Please work with the school to ensure attendance is not an issue.

### Trade Training Centre

It is exciting to see the first stage of our project completed and classes beginning in our new building from the beginning of the year. This is a multi-million dollar project designed to give our students the most up to date equipment and training facilities. The new building houses our construction and automotive programs but also provides seminar and classroom space that can be utilised by all of the school.

We have now begun stage 2 of the project which is the refurbishment of the technology wing. This will include new hospitality, hairdressing and electronics facilities and will also include a new cafeteria for students and staff. It means we are sharing the school site with the builders and all students are expected to stay on the right side of the fences for their own safety. We expect this stage to be completed in term 3.

**Respect · Relationships · Responsibility**

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## School Council Elections

Details for the 2012 School Council Election are enclosed in this newsletter.

School Councils are able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides its students.

**Please take the time to read the enclosed information.**



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## Private Property and Valuables

Many students bring valuable private property to school including mobile phones and other digital devices. While the school provides access to a locker, private property brought to school by students is not insured by the school or covered by school insurance. Parents/Guardians and students need to be aware that it is not the responsibility of the Department or the school if that property is lost, stolen or damaged. We encourage any valuable items to be added to the home contents insurance of your family. In addition we recommend that you do not share a locker or lock keys or combinations with anyone else.

## Accident Insurance and Ambulance Insurance

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development encourages all families to have ambulance insurance and accident insurance. The Department's policy is that any medical or ambulance expenses are the parent's responsibility. The school will always attempt to contact a parent when a student is injured or ill but will always act with safety and wellbeing of the student in mind in an emergency. There have been occasions where it has been necessary to call an ambulance for a student and that can be a large expense for the family if they are not insured.

## Netbook Program

The school has purchased netbooks for all Year 10 and 11 students with federal government funds, specifically designed to ensure that every student has access to a computer to assist their learning. The netbooks are supplied at no cost to the students for 24/7 access and use, but they remain the property of the school, and must be returned when the student leaves. Information sessions will be held next week over three nights due to the numbers involved. Please see the enclosed notice.

## Family Details

Please ensure that any changes to family details, including change of address, contact phone numbers etc are always updated with our office. We need to have these accurate to be able to contact families in an emergency.

All the best for the year. We look forward to a positive and productive year for all our families and students.

John Lyall  
Acting Principal

*Mrs Anne Martin is on long service leave for most of term 1.  
Mr John Lyall is Acting Principal in her absence.*

# Thinking Ahead:

## Tips for success in 2012 from the Sub School Leaders.

There are a number of very simple behaviours that will help all students reach their potential. Sometimes students might need parental support to achieve these. For example;

 Students should always come to class prepared for learning – bring equipment and textbooks, have the right amount of rest and breakfast etc. Parents please organize books and equipment before the beginning of the school year and have routines at home that encourage your students to go to bed at an appropriate time during week nights and eat properly. I am sure that you would agree that it is not appropriate for senior students to turn up to class without books, pens and paper or to fall asleep because they have no energy!

 Students should attend all timetabled classes. Parents please insist that your student attends all classes and contact your Sub School Engagement Officer if they are ill or you need any assistance in 2012.

 Students should be on time – lateness means that students miss out on instruction and lateness contributes to poor attendance. Parents please help your student with their early morning routines.

 Uniform is important. It is school policy that students be in the correct uniform. The school can decide to send a student home if they are not wearing correct uniform which means learning time will be lost. Parents please ensure that your student has obtained the correct uniform. Please communicate with the school if you require assistance with this matter.

Bernadette Bowling, Mark Gelderbloem, Travis McIntosh, Deb Cox and Ron Jooss (Sub School Team)

# Supervised Homework and Study

**Hallam Senior College has developed a new initiative in 2012 that aims to assist student learning, build upon achievements and increase academic successes.**

Supervised Homework and Study is a program that supports young people with a supervised and quiet space to complete homework or study three afternoons a week.

It involves teachers and community connections dedicating their time to assist students with any difficulties they may be having when completing their homework or studies.

This program enables students to work in a safe and productive environment for as little or as long as they need with the opportunity to seek assistance when required.

**When:** Tuesday 3-6pm Wednesday 12-6pm\* Thursday 3-6pm

\*On Wednesdays from 12-4, we have the Wednesday Project who specialise in providing assistance specifically to ESL students.

**Where:** The Library

**What:** The opportunity to study individually or seek assistance when required.

Or

Keep your eyes open for special guest presentations or subject specific sessions.

## EFTPOS in Canteen

EFTPOS will be available in the Canteen from late February. Minimum purchases are \$10 with NO cash out. This was a request from students which the Canteen has kindly agreed to.

# 2012 VPT Student Concession Card & Student Pass

## Some important information regarding Victoria's student and concession travel ticketing arrangements for 2012.

### Proof of concession entitlement

All students aged 17 years and over or those requiring a Half Yearly or Yearly Student Pass (regardless of age), are required to obtain a 2012 VPT Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement. Application details are contained below.

### 2012 Victorian Student Pass

The Victorian Student Pass provides travel for students on all metropolitan trains, trams and buses, all regional town bus services and all V/Line train and coach services operating wholly within Victoria. As was the case in 2010 and 2011, the Student Pass will be issued on a myki.

### 2012 Regional Transit Student Passes

Regional Transit Student Passes provide travel for students on buses in the Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo transit systems and limited V/Line rail services in these transit areas. The Regional Transit Student Pass is issued on a concession myki. Student Passes for the Southwest Transit, Colac School Town Services and Portland Town and Portland North School Town Services will continue to be issued as a paper pass.

### How to apply for a 2012 VPT Student Concession Card and/or a Student Pass

- The 2012 VPT Student Concession Card & Student Pass Application Form can be also obtained from:
- Metropolitan Premium Stations
- the MetShop (corner of Swanston and Little Collins streets, Melbourne)
- V/Line staffed stations or
- online at [metlinkmelbourne.com.au](http://metlinkmelbourne.com.au) or [myki.com.au](http://myki.com.au)

Students wanting to buy a Half Yearly (\$239.00) or Yearly (\$458.00) Victorian Student Pass, will be required, as normal, to obtain a 2012 VPT Concession Card, regardless of age, as proof of their concession entitlement. A \$9 card fee applies. The Student Pass is automatically loaded onto a myki. This myki will be issued on the spot with the myki card fee waived.

Students 16 years or under, who do not wish to purchase

a Student Pass, are not required to obtain a VPT Student Concession Card but can still get a child myki for concession travel by visiting [myki.com.au](http://myki.com.au), or calling 13 myki (13 6954). A \$3 card fee applies.

Students 17 years and over, who require a VPT Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement can obtain a VPT Student Concession Card and apply for a free concession myki at the same time. Students will need to complete the 2012 VPT Student Concession Card & Student Pass Application Form and lodge it as one of the locations listed. They will then be issued with their 2012 VPT Student Concession Card (a \$9 card fee applies) and a free concession myki.

Those students who already have a concession myki can continue to use it and only need to review their concession entitlement by completing the 2012 VPT Student Concession Form.

### Registration

Registration is optional for students that hold a Student Pass. However, it is strongly recommended that students register their myki online at [myki.com.au](http://myki.com.au), by calling 13 myki (13 6954), or by completing a myki Registration form.

### Benefits of registering a myki include:

- Balance on the myki is protected from the moment it is reported lost or stolen.
- Option to manage myki with an online account.
- Option of auto top up for 'set and forget' convenience

Further information specific to student travel arrangements under myki can be obtained by visiting [myki.com.au](http://myki.com.au) and going to the student area under the 'About myki' section of the website.

For information about non-myki Regional Transit Student Passes, visit [metlinkmelbourne.com.au](http://metlinkmelbourne.com.au).

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## Saver Plus - A Program Assisting Lower Income Families with Education Expenses

### The Back to School period can be an expensive time for families, particularly lower-income households when school costs quickly add up – including books, uniforms, excursions/camps etc.

Saver Plus program assists lower income families by matching their savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to \$500. The program also builds their financial skills, knowledge and confidence.

In 2011 the Brotherhood of St Laurence worked with 144 local participants, of which 107 have successfully completed the program. Saver Plus participants in City of Casey & Shire of Cardinia have used their matched savings, of up to \$500, to help pay for educational costs including school uniforms, textbooks, excursions, a laptop, music tuition, instrument hire, dance classes, sports fees and equipment.

People may be eligible to join Saver Plus if they or their partner:

- have a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card;
- are at least 18 years or over;

- have some regular income from work;
- are a parent or guardian of a child at school this year OR are attending or returning to vocational education themselves;
- live, work, study or have a child at school in the area where Saver Plus is delivered.

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ and is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

For more information visit: <http://www.bsl.org.au>

Or please contact : Karmen Dayal

Saver Plus Project Worker

Living Learning Pakenham, 6B Henry Street, VIC, 3810

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# School Council Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

## **An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Hallam Senior Secondary College.**

Nomination forms must be lodged by 3.00 p.m. on **Friday 24th February 2012** and are available from the College's General Office or for download on the College website.

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

If a ballot is required for any of the categories, ballot papers will be available from the College's General Office from 12 noon on **Friday 2nd March 2012**.

The ballot will close at 3.00 p.m. on **Friday 9 March 2012**.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Term Of Office</b>	<b>No. Of Positions</b>
Parent Member	From The Day After The Date Of The Declaration Of The Poll In 2012 And Inclusive Of The Date Of The Declaration Of The Poll In 2014.	2
DEECD Employee Member	From The Day After The Date Of The Declaration Of The Poll In 2012 And Inclusive Of The Date Of The Declaration Of The Poll In 2014.	2
Community Member	From The Day After The Date Of The Declaration Of The Poll In 2012 And Inclusive Of The Date Of The Declaration Of The Poll In 2014.	3

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

If the number of nominations is equal to the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect will be posted in a prominent position at the school and no elections will take place.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

John Lyall  
Acting Principal

# School Council Elections 2012: Information for Parents

## What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

## Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

## Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

## How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council encouraging another person to stand for election.

## Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

## What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

## Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.
- Contact John Lyall (Acting Principal) at the College for further information.

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## Girls Cricket Win First Game

We played Lakeside on Thursday 9th Feb and bowled first, getting them all out for 26 off 21 overs. Kirsten McLeod was the pick of the bowlers getting 4 for 2 off 3 overs. She was on a hat trick in her last over. Rachel Hunt got 2 for 4 off 3 overs and Kiah, Karly and Skye each got a wicket.

Chasing this small score we lost quick wickets to be 4 for 13 but Rachel and Kiah steadied the innings to pass their score still only 4 down off 6 overs. Rachel was 16no.

We are now the Casey Nth Champions and progress into the Sth Zone final series.



## Casey Volunteer Awards

The Casey Volunteer Awards recognise and honour those individuals, groups, organisations and businesses that have contributed to the Casey community, or have had a positive impact on the quality of life of residents of the City of Casey residents through their volunteering efforts.

Some examples of volunteering could be through a contribution to:

- Sport and Recreation
- Family and Community Support
- Arts and Cultural Activities
- Environment and Conservation

Volunteers are the backbone of the community and provide a highly valued service to Casey without any thought of reward, so the awards are a fantastic opportunity for residents to show volunteers that their efforts are appreciated.

Nominations are now open and close Wednesday 28th March 2012 at 5:00pm.

Further information can be accessed at the City of Casey website: [www.casey.vic.gov.au/volunteerawards](http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/volunteerawards) or by contacting the City of Casey Customer Service Staff on 9705 5200.

# Netbook Information Evenings

All Year 10 and Year 11 Students were recently sent information about the Hallam Senior College Netbook Program.

Students need to follow the procedure outlined below to collect their netbooks.

Parents and students are invited to attend an information evening on the evenings below according to their surname. Attendance is recommended as you will receive important information and advice about the program and the responsibilities of having a netbook.

Because of the numbers and space required parents/students are requested to attend on the night allocated.

All information sessions will be in the College Theatre at 5:30pm.

Collection of the netbook will occur the following day at lunchtime in the College Library.

## SUMMARY

1. Attend the correct information session in the College Theatre
2. Read and sign the Acceptable Use Agreement and Netbook Agreement
3. Student collects the netbook from the library the following day

**Students must** have a completed and signed user agreement form with them when they come to collect their netbook. Netbooks will not be given to students unless they provide the form

Surnames From	Information Sessions 5:30pm	Collection at lunchtime
A - F	Tuesday 14 FEB	Wednesday 15 FEB
G - N	Wednesday 15 FEB	Thursday 16 FEB
O - Z	Thursday 16 FEB	Friday 17 FEB

## Important Dates

14 Feb	Netbook Info Evening Surnames: A-F	12 Mar	Labour Day Public Holiday
15 Feb	Netbook Info Evening Surnames: G-N	30 Mar	Term 1 Ends
16 Feb	Netbook Info Evening Surnames: O-Z	16 Apr	Term 2 Starts
21 Feb	School Photos Day	25 Apr	ANZAC Day Holiday
23 Feb	School Photos Day 2 (For those absent on the 21st)		
23 Feb	College Finance Office open until 7.00pm		
29 Feb	EMA Applications Close		
29 Feb	Sub School Information Evening		

Dates correct at time of printing and are subject to change without notice More information is made available on the College's website as dates are confirmed

Please see [www.hallamssc.vic.edu.au](http://www.hallamssc.vic.edu.au) or call 9703 1266 for more information

## Sub School Information Evening

**Wed 29th Feb @ 6:30pm**

Parents and guardians are invited to attend a Sub School Information Evening on where they can meet the Staff affiliated with their son's or daughter's allocated Sub School.

Come along and meet your student's Sub School staff.

Hear about important policies and procedures.

Please RSVP by Friday 24th February for catering purposes your Sub School



Linking Learning and Life

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