We welcome new and returning staff for 2016.

Ms Naomi Kenner spent last year teaching English and Humanities at Langley Grammar School in Berkshire, England. For the seven years prior to that I worked as a music teacher at a number of schools in Melbourne. She is excited to be teaching English and Literacy at Alexandra Secondary College this year.

Ms Maree Luby is returning after a well deserved break. She will be teaching English and be head of Humanities.

ASC are excited to have these teachers join us in 2017.

ASC Congratulates Year 11 student Dean Malley

Golf Victoria sent out a letter to all Juniors to attend a Skills Evaluation Day which included hitting all different types of golf shots. A small bunch of kids were selected to then go for an interview at NSR where Dean had to show past achievements. To Dean’s credit he was selected. He will be working with a high performance coach to get fitness up then after Year 12 he will be flying to the big smoke of USA.

Dean started playing golf at the age of 12 joining the Eildon Golf Club, at which time his handicap was 36, his handicap now is 9. Dean believes Golf to be a challenging, mental sport, practising hitting golf balls at the range and also chipping most nights at home. Dean loves the game, but also meeting new people that enjoy playing golf. His parents and family are very proud of Dean and will be encouraging him all the way.

This was a dream of Deans and he believes you need to work hard at what you love, as dreams to come true. The ASC community is thrilled for Dean and hopes to see him playing the world circuit. From all of us, well done Dean!

Dates to Remember-

Wed 15th Feb
House Swimming Sports
Fri 3rd Mar
Southern Ranges Swimming Sports
Thurs 16th Mar
Interschool Round Robin Sports
Tues 21st Mar
Hume Swimming
Fri 10th Mar
Year 7 Vaccinations
Wed 22nd Mar
Japan Tour departs (15 days)
Wed 29th Mar
House Athletic Sports
Saturday 1st April
Debutante Ball

Term Dates-

Term One: Tuesday 31st Jan to Friday 31st March
Term Two: Tuesday 18th April To Friday 30th June
Term Three: Monday 17th July To Friday 22nd September
Term Four: Monday 9th Oct to Friday 22nd December

Curriculum (Student free)

Days-

Monday 24th April
Friday 9th June
Wednesday 16th August
Principals’ Report

Welcome to a new school year, an especially big welcome, to our new students, families and staff. We only have the one new teacher this year, Miss Naomi Kenner, who is teaching English. We are also excited to welcome back Mrs Luby from her years’ leave, to take charge of the Humanities Department and teach English as well.

Most people would be aware that our student shelter burnt down on Saturday evening. While this hasn’t affected the running of normal classes this week it is an unpleasant way to begin our school year. Two of our students were responsible for the fire. We are certain that it was not their intent to burn the student shelter down; however reckless behaviour often has severe and unintended consequences. The matter is in the hands of police and as a College we are also working with the students and families. We are thankful to the members of our community who assisted in raising the alarm and to our great CFA volunteers for their quick response.

The Department of Education will reinstate our student shelter so that it is as good, if not, better than it was before.

We are very thankful to our wonderful community who raised the alarm and our great CFA volunteers who responded to the fire within minutes.

On a more positive note, we have been very pleased with the start students have made. The two big questions posed to all students at our first assembly were: “What are your goals for this year?” and “What does it mean to you to wear the Alexandra Secondary College Uniform”. The first question is essential to a successful year; without goals we don’t have purpose. We also need to know how we are going to achieve our goals and that may require the help of teachers, family and friends.

The second question is about how we show pride in being a member of our College community. The challenge in the question is what are we doing to make our school experience better for ourselves and others.

We love working with our families and welcome feedback on what we can do differently or better so please feel free to talk with us in person, over the phone or by email.

Nigel Lyttle
lyttle.nigel.n@edumail.vic.gov.au

Sue Malcolm
malcolm.susan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Applications for the CSEF program for 2017 is open now.
The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) payment arrangements has changed to Term 1. Families holding a valid means tested concession card (Eg: Health Care Card or Veteran Affairs) are eligible to apply from the 27th January. Secondary College students will be eligible for $225 and it will be paid directly to the School to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs.

The same form also allows the provision of a uniform pack for Year 7 students at mid year.
Please call at the School office for an application form. We will also require a copy of your current card.

CENTREPAY is now available.
Centrepay is now available as an option for families to pay for their 2015 charges.
Centrepay is a free payment option provided by Centrelink for families in receipt of a Centrelink payment. It allows families to select a one off or continuing payment which is deducted from Centrelink benefits. Applications can be made online or over the phone quoting Alexandra Secondary College’s CRN 555-105-147B.

If you think you may qualify for this service, we have forms available.
Please contact the College office for further details.

Conveyance Allowance
Applications for Conveyance Allowance (School Buses) for 2016 are now available at the School office.
To be eligible you must reside 4.8km or more, by the shortest route, to the nearest school campus.
Valuing Your Child’s Future:

Attendance at school has a huge impact on your son or daughter’s future!

- High absence rates
- Poor schooling outcomes
- Poverty - Social Disadvantage
- Lower Quality of Life

Even one day away has an impact: Students lose continuity in their learning, and are behind the eight-ball when they return.
15 days away a year means they have missed a whole term of education over their time at Secondary College.
(Of course, we don’t expect students who are ill and contagious to come to school – they need to recover. We do encourage them to return as soon as possible.)

How can you make it happen?
- Make appointments in the holidays or after school
- Never allow your son or daughter to take a day off for their birthday – they can celebrate with the family at night
- Do the hard yards if your son or daughter wants to stay home, and ensure they go to school
- If there is a problem that is causing them to want to stay home.
- Don’t ignore it and hope the problem goes away – contact your son or daughter’s House Leader or Bron – Student Welfare – to work with them to solve the problem.

To assist your son or daughter to have more opportunities for a happy & healthy life -> make sure they are at school every possible day they can be.

Street and Bus Passes

If a Street or Bus pass are required please write a note, which needs to be signed by a Parent/Guardian and needs to be dropped into the front office by 9am. Phoning the office by 9am is also fine.

Street Passes are not for students to go up the street for lunch.

Daily Bus travellers are only to travel on buses they are allocated to, if they require to travel on another bus they also need to have a bus pass.

Absentees

Please contact the school before 9am, if possible, to notify that your student will be away, as this will ensure that you do not receive a follow up phone call. If you know in advance the dates your student will be away then please contact the office for them to input.

Names on items

Can Parents/Guardians please ensure all students’ clothing, books and other belongings have a name clearly written on them. During the year we get a collection of books, equipment and many uniform items (especially jumpers) without names on them, so if not named they can’t be returned to the rightful owners.

Do you want to learn to play music?

Would you like to play in a band? There is a wide variety of instruments to learn at ASC and several instruments to hire. No prior experience is necessary and it’s great fun.

If you’re interested, get an information/application form from the school office or speak to Nick Lester.

Be quick though, because places on some instruments are filling up quickly!

Inside Out

Please email me if you do not require the newsletter.

Hats

All students are expected to wear a hat or cap at recess and lunch time. We appreciate your support.

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Students in years 10, 11 or 12 Work Experience Opportunity at CSIRO

CSIRO offers school science students the chance to gain first-hand experience of their core research in a scientific environment. Applications for this year’s program open in March 2017.

The CSIRO work experience program aims to give students the opportunity to:

- Gain insight and experience into CSIRO’s everyday work, which involves solving the big questions facing our country and planet
- Enquire about the type of work being undertaken at CSIRO
- Find out the types of jobs that are available in the science industry
- Gain relevant work experience and/or skills
- Explore their interests
- Align school studies with career aspirations.


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Term 1 applications close 2nd March.
New Students & Parents Introductory and Music Evening

Parents and students new to ASC in 2017 are invited to a “Get to Know the School” evening and extend an invitation for all family members to attend.
Come along and meet staff, have a tour and stay for an introduction to the ASC Music program.
When—Tuesday 14th February
Where- ASC Grounds
What—5.30 Free Sausage sizzle
Meet and greet staff
5.45 Brief chat about the school year
Optional School Tour
6-00 Introduction to Music Program
Who—Any new students to ASC and their parents.
Come along - it’ll be great fun!
If you’d like the weekly Newsletter Inside Out emailed to you each week, please email Dundas.suzanne.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

Year 9 Student Leadership Program
Student Leadership program has been sent via both mail and email to the families of all Year 9 students. If your child is interested in applying for this program it is imperative that you and your child read and follow the instructions carefully as the time line for applications and interviews is very short. This year’s Year 9 students will be in residence at the TAS campus during Term 3, 2017. Any queries can be directed to Jacki Tossol at the college.

SENTRAL
For parents wishing to have access to SENTRAL, our Student Management Software, that your student and all staff access, please respond to our email address alexandra.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au and request a registration letter to be forwarded to you to complete the process.
Please insert “Sentral Access” into the subject header so we can forward to the Sentral administrator.
Can all families please also email your email address, mobile numbers, and names to the above email, as we are setting up an SMS system for emergencies.
Please place SMS Info in the Subject heading of your email.

Remember to follow our ASC Facebook page to keep up to date with news and events.
Our Year Seven Students have settled in to ASC life.

The first week of term is always a busy one, particularly for our Year 7 students, who have transitioned from primary school and are adjusting to their new life at secondary school. We have enjoyed welcoming them to their new environment and watching them engage positively with their fellow students and teachers. We randomly surveyed some Year 7 students about what they are looking forward to this year and have recorded some of their responses on page two of this newsletter. We look forward to being a part of their journey and personal growth here at Alexandra Secondary College as they grow and learn in a safe and supportive environment. They should be proud of this milestone they have reached and we encourage them to follow their dreams and aspirations by making the most of the opportunities that our college provides.

Alexandra Junior Soccer Club Special Meeting.

The Alexandra Junior Soccer Club will be holding a special meeting on Tuesday 21st February at 7pm for the purpose of handing the running of the club over to a new committee of management. The meeting will be held in the Goldfields room at the Corner Hotel in Alexandra. After 15 years as President and head coach, Larry Kelly is finally hanging up his soccer boots. It’s been a tough decision, as Larry’s love of the game and the enjoyment he has had coaching over the years haven’t dimmed at all, but he feels its now time for someone new to take the lead. The club is in a secure position, with good membership numbers each season and a healthy bank balance. If you are one of our many families in the area whose children love to play soccer then please consider taking a role in keeping the club running. If the appointment of a new committee is unsuccessful then the soccer club will go into recess for the coming season.

For more information call Larry Kelly on 0497 078 394 or email the soccer club at alexsoccerclub@gmail.com