Dear Parents / Guardians, Staff and Students,

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of Braemar-in-Brief for 2017. I hope our students are looking forward to the new school year and to all that the College has to offer. This is an ideal time to set some goals for the year ahead, and I strongly encourage our young people to do so.

The commencement of a new school year will trigger a range of emotions; excitement for many young people and perhaps a degree of apprehension for others, especially in the case of new students. At Braemar College we pride ourselves on our comprehensive transition programs which aim to help young people settle in as quickly as possible.

Parents and students with any concerns or queries should see the relevant Learning Community Leader or Year Level Leader in the first instance. These members of staff are best placed to provide support and guidance. The names and email addresses of these and other members of staff are located on the College website via the following link: http://www.braemar.vic.edu.au/contact-staff

New Members of Staff

With an increased enrolment for 2017, we welcomed several new members of staff to Braemar College last week:

Ms Jennifer Dowling  Middle School Teacher (Create - Make)
Mr James Heazlewood  Middle School Teacher (Investigate)
Mr Andrew Sharpe  Middle School Teacher (Health & Phys Ed); Campus Sport
Ms Chanelle Wooldridge  Middle School Teacher (Health & Phys Ed)
Mr Jonathan Curtain  Senior School Teacher (Art)
Mr Joseph Crofts  Senior School Teacher (English and Media)
Dr Rod Le Cudennec  Senior School Teacher (English); Year 10 Level Leader
Mrs Kate Crothers  Senior School Teacher (English)
Mr Michael Horne  Leadership Team (Head of Senior School)
VCE 2016 Results

I am mindful that the ATAR scores have now been released for over a month. Earlier last week, the young people who graduated in 2016 received the first round of offers from universities and tertiary institutions.

For those new to the College, the 2016 College Dux was Tanzia Matotek and Dux Proximus was Pip Wright.

Most impressively, the College results have improved with one in two students (50%) of the cohort gaining an ATAR of 80 or over. The figures for the over 90 ATAR are equally impressive, with 20% of the cohort achieving these scores.

I am very proud of the College’s staff and students. The results are the best we have had since 2006 and reflect the hard work and dedication of all involved.

The following College blog post from December 2016 contains a little more detail: [https://braemarcollege.wordpress.com/2016/12/13/braemar-college-2016-vce-results/](https://braemarcollege.wordpress.com/2016/12/13/braemar-college-2016-vce-results/)

Second Campus

I am very pleased to announce that, after a number of years, the Braemar College Woodend campus is indeed becoming a reality. I communicated with families at the end of 2016 to announce that our planning permit had been approved by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. In the following months and working with our architects Hayball, the College sought tenders for the construction of Stage I (Middle School and Administration) of Braemar College’s Woodend campus.

After an exhaustive process, I can announce that the successful builder is MelbCon. This company specialises in the construction of schools and educational facilities and has done an extensive range of work in Victoria. They have constructed schools on greenfield sites through to additional constructions within existing schools.

The first site meetings have been conducted and work will soon commence on the College property after we have gained a building permit. I am investigating ways of keeping the College community abreast of the construction process and will be in a position to write more about this in our next Braemar-in-Brief.

These are indeed exciting times for the College and I look forward to sharing with you the milestones of the construction and ultimately the opening of the Middle School.

Monday 30 January – Day 1

Term 1 commences for all year levels on Monday 30 January with a Day 1 on the College timetable. Upon arrival at the bus turning circle, students will be directed to classrooms and locker areas to drop off their bags before attending a short Welcome Assembly in Heyward Hall.

Middle School students will follow a slightly altered program on Monday as there are a number of administrative and logistical tasks that need to be completed.

Senior School students should ensure they are prepared for their timetabled Day 1 classes.

Individual, house and family photographs will be taken on Monday. Students are expected to adhere to the College’s uniform expectations. The Heads of School have communicated these to parents and students. Note that PE uniform is not required for any of the photographs.

Information on ordering photographs through National Photography is available via the following link: [www.nationalphotography.com.au](http://www.nationalphotography.com.au)

Select “School Photos” then “Portrait Packs”

Enter the shoot key - Y8H7NAFK

Enter your details then click “Cart” to pay.

Families wishing to have a “Family Photo” should refer to the schedule below. This is based on students’ surnames. Please remind your children to leave class at these times so that they can meet their siblings in Heyward Hall.
Please follow this link https://goo.gl/forms/jKxnqKQkGRcr29Tp1 to complete and submit the “Family Photo” form if you wish to take advantage of this option. Parents will be given a choice of package and photograph they wish to purchase from the proofs supplied with the original order.

If you have any queries – please telephone National Photography on 1300 677 000. Alternatively, contact Mrs Vivienne James at the College: v.james@braemar.vic.edu.au

Welcome BBQ – Year 5 & 7 Families

A Welcome BBQ hosted by the Parents & Friends’ Committee (P&F) will be held at the College for Year 5 and Year 7 students and families on Monday 30 January, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Simple BBQ fare will be provided including sausages, veggie burgers, bread, sauce and cold drinks. Feel free to bring a more elaborate picnic if you prefer. Weather permitting, the BBQ will be on the College oval; alternatively in Heyward Hall.

RSVPs for this event are not required.

Organs Buses

The Organs buses are almost at capacity this year and there is very little flexibility for students to travel on buses other than the one to which they have been allocated. We have made every effort to accommodate children from split families who may need to access two bus routes. Please understand that students who wish to travel on a different bus due to external sporting or other commitments, will not be permitted to do so if that bus is full.

There are some changes to existing bus routes, stops and times this year. Families are encouraged to check the Organs Coaches website before Monday, to ensure you have up-to-date information: http://organscoaches.com.au/school-services/?sch=braemar

Please contact Organs Coaches directly for information about the buses: 5422 1788

Fire Evacuation Drill

On Monday 30 January the College will conduct a fire evacuation drill. The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority and during the summer months, we monitor weather and fire conditions closely.

Please take the opportunity to talk to your child/ren about the importance of evacuation and containment drills towards ensuring their safety in an emergency situation.

Our usual process is to let parents know via SMS that an emergency evacuation or containment drill has occurred in order to allay any concerns resulting from the sound of sirens or communications from your child.

If you happen to be on site during an emergency drill, please go straight to Reception or alternatively, follow the directions of staff.

Braemar College Communications

The Braemar College website (www.braemar.vic.edu.au) was developed with a broad audience in mind and incorporates a range of features such as a 360° virtual tour of the campus. Staff contact details are listed on the <Contact Us> page. The home page has links to the College blog, Calendar, Trybooking, SEQTA and other key sites.
The College blog provides information about the daily operations of the College. It is frequently updated and the currency and accuracy of information is reliable. By subscribing to the blog, you will be alerted via email whenever there is a new post. The blog is highly effective in keeping parents, staff and students informed about life at Braemar. If you have not yet signed up to the College blog, I would encourage you to do so now by clicking on the following link:

http://braemarcollege.wordpress.com and electing to <Follow this blog>.

_Braemar-in-Brief_ is a fortnightly electronic newsletter from the Principal. Its aim is to keep families informed about life at the College by providing a snapshot of key events, communicating expectations, providing information about staffing arrangements, operational and procedural updates, learning and teaching information and the strategic direction of the College.

A hyperlink to the newsletter will be sent to staff, parents and students via communications@braemar.vic.edu.au on alternate Fridays.

**Braemar College Calendar**

The Braemar College calendar is a busy one. Please check this regularly to ensure you are aware of forthcoming events. The calendar is available via a link on the home page of our website and is also on SEQTA.

**In closing…**

I am looking forward to the 2017 school year. With the development of the Woodend campus now underway, strong enrolments and an enthusiastic, committed staff, the future for the Braemar College community is ripe with promise and opportunities. I encourage parents to work in partnership with us as we educate your children in mind, body and spirit.

**Regards**

Russell Deer  
Principal  
Braemar College