



23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2016

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Welcome to the 2016 school year. I hope that the holiday season was a restful and enjoyable one for you and your family. I hope also that your child's 2015 Semester Two report shows improvement for your child as well as providing advice on how to ensure a more successful year this year. I want to welcome our new parents and students. I know that your choice in joining the Lalor Secondary College community is the right one as I am confident our programs, our environment and our history of excellent results will ensure positive experiences for your child.

2015 was another **successful year** for us in terms of the senior students, particular for the **Class of 2015**. Our students once again confirmed that they can achieve the best in the Whittlesea network and can achieve better results each year. Last year we saw a record number of students receiving study scores over 40 (the maximum is 50), we saw our mean 'all study' score at 29 and our mean study score for English is the highest the school has ever had and equals the state mean. So we are extremely proud of the Class of 2015, and know that with such results they have more opportunity to choose a future path that may appeal to them. Congratulations to those parents whose child was in the Class of 2015. Well done!

During the course of 2015, the Department of Education and Training (DET) gave schools and their communities the opportunity to provide feedback to them about the areas they felt were important for the government to focus on with regards our schools. They released consultation papers to which our School Council responded. As a result of the consultation and feedback, in October the DET released their 'agenda' for achieving the target of becoming Australia's education state, through their '**Education State – Schools**' paper. All principals were briefed by the department about what it means for schools and their communities. What is impressive about the 'Education State' agenda is that it has four areas of focus; *Learning for Life, Breaking the Link, Happy, Healthy and Resilient Kids* and *Pride and Confidence in our Schools*. Within these four areas are strategies for schools to focus on. What is also worthwhile about the Department's agenda is that they are providing the resources to the schools that most need them to ensure schools and their communities can improve outcomes for their students and children. You can access <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/educationstate/Pages/default.aspx>, should you wish to learn more about the DET's priorities and actions. Our Annual Implementation Plan has been developed with the Education State focus and will be made available in March once School Council and the Department signs off on it.

Last year the government made available **funding for camps, sports and excursions**, for those families on a health care card. Eligible parents took the opportunity provided to them and completed the necessary forms. The funding has been extended to school uniforms only for those parent who, in 2015 were able to access the CSEF in 2015 are eligible for this funding. Information about forms etc will be available to you on commencement of the school year, so I ask that parents please check their child's Compass dashboard for updates.

On the subject of **Compass**, I ask that parents ensure that any **change of contact details** with regards address, home phone numbers, mobile phone numbers and email addresses be provided to the school as soon as the changes occur. This is extremely important as it is our primary form of communication and parents without an up to date email address or mobile number will not receive important information. It is also obviously important as we need to be able to contact parents or guardians in cases of possible emergencies. Unfortunately too often the contact details are not correct and we are left in a position where duty of care becomes a concern. You will have realised also that during the course of 2015, many communications were issued via the contact data we have on Compass. If the information is not correct, then you are missing potentially important information. Hence, I ask that **you keep the school informed**, through **Ellie Clarris on 9463 7349**, our student enrolment administrator, of any changes that occur to contact details. I cannot stress enough the importance of doing this.

You will have noticed over the course of the break, **refurbishment** work has been happening on the ground floor of our **multi-level building**. This is the first stage of our Master Plan underway. When the work is completed, the school

**administration** will move to the new area. While we have always wanted the administration area accessible to our community, we have been concerned about student safety. The new area will ensure accessibility from David Street, and will likewise ensure our student safety is maintained. At the time of writing this, the completion of the work is anticipated to be in the first few weeks of Term Two. Let's hope the timeline is maintained.

Last year, the **Student Representative Council** submitted a proposal to School Council that would allow **girls to wear trousers** in Terms Two and Three (winter months). After further consultation with the students and much discussion at School Council and the Uniform Sub-Committee, the SRC proposal was accepted. As a result, school trousers for girls are now available for our female students to wear only during the terms indicated above. To ensure your daughter has the trousers in a timely manner I suggest that the item is ordered within the first half of Term One. Uniform Shop hours are available on the school's website.

Each year our School Council is charged with reviewing school policies. Last year major review work occurred for a number of policies to which I want to draw parents' and guardians' attention. Each year we review the **Student Code of Behaviour** which determines actions and consequences to student behaviour. This is an important policy that parents should have available to ensure the rights and responsibilities of the school's stakeholders are being maintained – that is, students, parents and teachers.

Another policy which had significant review in preparation for the continuous reporting which will be occurring through Compass in Semester Two is the **Learning, Assessment and Reporting Policy**. This details the expectations that parents should have with regards to just that – the learning, assessment and reporting of students' progress. I ask that parents read this policy to ensure there is an understanding of the school's actions and accountabilities in these areas.

The **Uniform Policy** is one that we ask all parents to ensure they are familiar with. It is a policy that we hold strongly to and that we enforce from the very first day of school. We know that during the school break students are prone to perhaps colour their hair, have nails painted, have piercings put in. We accept that this is an individual choice and we don't want to take these type of choices away from students. However, these are infringements against our Uniform Policy should students come to school with un-naturally coloured hair, with facial piercings, with coloured nails. And the consequences of infringements will be enforced. We have a strong Uniform Policy because we know that as students join the workforce there are expectations placed on them with regards to how they present themselves. Schools are charged with preparing students for the society they will join as members of the workforce and therefore this expectation with regards the uniform is one we do not waver on. Hence I ask parents and guardians to ensure that your child comes to school from the first day of the school year as we expect them to, according to the Uniform Policy.

All the policies are available on the **school website**. Should you like a hard copy of any of the policies, please let the school know and this can be arranged.

On the school's website you will also **find staff details** in terms of their roles within the school and contact details. Of course, contact details can be found on Compass also and should be the primary resource for communication.

As always, my staff and I look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure the success of your child during the course of the 2016 school year. I look forward to seeing you at the Parent Teacher Conferences and at Parent Information Evenings.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school and relevant personnel should you have any question or queries during the course of 2016. As stated previously, we want to ensure success for your child and we are confident that we will be able to do this when we work together towards this goal.

Yours sincerely,



**Silvana Sena**  
**Principal**