28 January 2016

Dear Year 9 Parents

RE: Pre Senior Year (Year 9) 2016

I hope your son/daughter has enjoyed the summer holidays and is feeling refreshed and looking forward to an exciting year ahead as they master the Challenging Me program. I would especially like to welcome all families that are new to the School in 2016.

Some important dates and events to note for the start of the year are:

- Orientation Day for new students to The Peninsula School in 2016 will be held on **Friday 29 January** and students will be required at the Ansett Hall at 9.00 am in school uniform. Students will be available to be collected from the school by 11.00 am although parents may take the opportunity to remain at the school and enjoy a coffee in the Macdonald Pavilion.

- **All students** begin the school year on **Monday 1 February**. Students should proceed to the Pennell Pre Senior Centre (S Block) in school uniform at the start of the day – 8.30am. Students will meet their Mentor, timetables, lockers and record books will then be distributed. An assembly follows and lessons will begin after recess.

- On **Wednesday 3 February** our Year 9 students will be going on a bushwalk through Arthurs Seat along the Two Bays Walking Track. A large number of parents have already completed the permission form online through CareMonkey and provided updated medical profiles. If you haven’t yet created a profile or given permission for the excursion please do this before school commences.

- An Information Evening for parents of Year 9 students will be held in the Senior School Lecture Theatre (T Block) on **Thursday 4 February** at 7.00 pm. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the Pre Senior program.

- On **Monday 8 February** the Year 9 Mentor Conversation Evening will afford you the opportunity to meet with your child’s mentor in the Pennell Pre Senior Centre. We would ask that you make your booking via Zenith. On the left hand menu under Parent Services you will see a link to Learning Dialogues. From here you will be able to select a time slot that is convenient to you. If you have more than one child you will be able to select each individual student from the menu on the right hand side. Should this evening not suit you, I would encourage you to make direct contact with your child’s Mentor to arrange an alternate time.

Following this letter I have attached some information that will assist your child to have a smooth beginning to the year.
I am looking forward to 2016 with great enthusiasm. Your son/daughter will be challenged in a number of ways and through carefully designed support processes will learn, grow and flourish. If at any time you feel that I or Linda Morgan (Program Coordinator) may be of assistance please do not hesitate to make contact.

Yours sincerely

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Head of Pre Senior
Pre Senior Year staff
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If you have any queries during the year your first point of contact would be with your son/daughter’s Wellbeing and Academic Mentor.

Communications
- Telephone (97887777), e-mail, The Record Book, arranged meeting

Information
There are a number of sources of key information:
- Zenith is the primary source of information for parents and includes the School Calendar and Year 9 Information Handbook. Families new to the school will be emailed their login and password details for Zenith once school commences. For returning families those details will remain unchanged from 2015. Parents are encouraged to check Zenith regularly to keep up to date with what’s happening with your child and our school community.
- The Peninsula School App titled “The Peninsula School – Skoolbag” (free download from Apple App Store) provides information about what is happening for your Year 9 student.
- The Peninsula Weekly Bulletin is published via email - please make sure you check this weekly to stay up-to-date with activities and meetings.
- The School website is also updated regularly with key information – www.tps.vic.edu.au

Sport
Training for sport begins Week 1. Students will be able to access their sports and training times from Zenith. The first fixture round of sport is on Saturday 6 February. Most students will be required for this fixture. Details regarding times, venues can be accessed on Zenith in the first days of term.

Absences
- If a student is absent parents are required to ring before 10am to notify the School (9788 7777) and a note should be presented to the Mentor on the student’s return. Students will not be able to leave school during the day unless their parent has provided permission usually via a note, email or a phone call outlining the reason for the early departure. The child’s Wellbeing and Academic Mentor can provide the necessary early departure slip. Students will then need to sign out and present their departure slip to the School Marshal.
- Students who arrive late to school must sign in with the School Marshal and provide a written explanation for their lateness.
- We encourage parents not to take their son/daughter out of school during term time. If this is unavoidable, a written application for leave must be addressed to the Principal.
- The School Marshal, Mr Mitch Brennan, can be contacted on 9788 7718.
Uniform and appearance
It is expected that all students will present themselves in an exemplary fashion. We ask parents to be attentive to the following matters relating to student appearance:

- Girls' summer dress hem lines must sit mid knee or longer.
- Boys' summer shorts require a school belt.
- Jewellery should be limited to a watch and simple gold/silver studs or sleepers for girls.
- No students should be wearing make-up, false nails or fake tan.
- Hair should be brushed, for boys it must sit above the collar. Hair must not be shorter than a 4 comb.
- Girl's hair should not fall in their eyes. Any hair ribbons should be navy or red for formal occasions. No coloured clips or hair bands other than the thin hair band that can be purchased from the uniform shop.
- Hair colouring should be natural and of one colour.

Mobile Phones
Mobile phones may be brought to school but must be secured in the student's locker during the school day.