Welcome back for 2020! It has been a terrific start for our students and they have really settled in quickly to the routines of a new school year. We began the year with two days of professional development for staff. It was a valuable opportunity to prepare for the academic year and participate in whole school professional learning so that there is a consistent approach by all.

On Thursday we welcomed 175 Year 7 students who spent the day familiarising themselves with the campus and the routines that are very different to the primary schools they have come from. It is always lovely to see them grow in confidence and make new friendships. At the same time the Year 12’s began their studies.

The whole school began on Friday and it was an opportunity to welcome our new students and staff at an assembly. We have a number of staff joining Diamond Valley College, they include:

- Kirk Briggs - Health/PE
- Brigette Gilmour - Foods/Health
- Alison Heathcote - English/Humanities
- Justine Knight - Integration
- Sarah Parr - English/Psychology
- Alice Potashnyk - Maths/PE
- Chloe Rogers - Italian
- Stephanie Watt - Integration

Staffing for the year is nearly in place but still needs some work to ensure that all classes are covered. Frances Jennings resigned just prior to our return to pursue other educational opportunities. I appreciate and thank Marinka Deering who is covering the Art/Visual Communication load while we advertise the position. We anticipate finalising this in the next two to three weeks. We are also seeking a Science teacher in readiness for when Kara Vella begins family leave at the beginning of March.

A huge change for our students this year has been the implementation of a ministerial order that sees all schools in Victoria ban mobile phones. This is a complete ban from the moment our students enter the school grounds until they leave at 3.00. We require students to power their phone off and keep it stored securely in their locker until the end of the day. It’s been a huge change for many of our students and it’s testing their reliance on being connected to the digital world 24/7. On the flip side we have had really positive feedback and that it’s refreshing to be switched off and not be distracted by constant notifications.

Watching our students move around the school, it is such a difference. They are talking, laughing and interacting with others. I want to congratulate our students on the manner in which they have adopted this policy, they have been respectful, understanding and open to new routines.

A policy like this comes with issues, for example security of property and communication between families if there is an urgent matter. All of these can be addressed and at times we need to think about how something can be done differently. There is nothing that we cannot work together to solve.

I wish our students all the best for the coming year. At the College assembly I spoke to them about getting involved, challenging themselves, setting goals and by the end of the year saying that they have done their best. I cannot ask for more. We will work together to make this possible.

Allison Bennett
Principal
We would like to extend a very warm welcome to new and returning staff to Diamond Valley College in 2020.

**Alison Heathcote**
Learning Specialist; English
I am from Hazel Glen College where I taught English and Humanities in both Middle and Senior School. One of the highlights of my time at HGC was a 6 week trip to China with the Victorian Young Leaders to China Program where I accompanied 25 Year 9 students to Beijing and Shanghai. I am looking forward to joining the Diamond Valley community in 2020.

**Kirk Briggs**
Leading Teacher, Curriculum; Health/PE
As a Health and Physical Education teacher for the last 19 years (the last 10 years at Epping Secondary College) I look forward to joining the Diamond Valley College Community in 2020 as the Curriculum Leader - Teaching and Learning.

**Brigette Gilmour**
Foods/Health
I have been teaching Foods, Health, PE and Dance at Roxburgh College for the past 11 years. I love leopard print, being creative and cooking; especially with my family. I am so excited to be joining DVC and getting to know you all. Teaching Foods and Health is my passion, I look forward to working with you in 2020!

**Sarah Parr**
English/Psychology
My name is Sarah Parr and I’m returning to Diamond Valley College after a few years away, where I’ve been working to support public education and advocating for educational equity within the Australian and Victorian education systems. I’m looking forward to returning to DVC so I can work directly with students and re-join the school community.

**Chloe Rogers**
Italian
Buongiorno! I’m a first year graduate teacher and I’ll be teaching Italian. I’m excited to teach students the benefits of language learning and show them that anyone can learn a second language.

**Alice Potashnyk**
PE/Math
I am a graduate teacher that has a large sporting background however I love teaching Math, Science, PE and Health. I have a passion for teaching these subjects and cannot wait to bring my fun and innovative ideas to class to allow students to enjoy their learning and grow.
Shae Audley  
PE/Health

Hello to all of the Diamond Valley College Community, my name is Shae Audley and I am excited to be returning as a teacher to the school that I came to as a student. I am in my 8th year of teaching, having taught for 6 of those years at Laurimar Primary School. I made the move to DVC last year, working part time. I will be teaching Physical Education, Health and a Year 7 Homegroup this year, in a full time position. I am also the Head Coach of the AFL Sports Academy. I aspire to see all students achieve success and work hard, to the best of their abilities.

Brooke George  
PE/Science

I am looking forward to teaching at Diamond Valley in 2020 after a period of family leave. Prior to my leave, I had been a staff member at Eltham High School for over 10 years. I am most excited about getting back in to the science classroom and continuing to develop the netball sports academy.

Justine Knight  
Integration Aide

Hi, my name is Justine knight. I'm a mother of three lovely kids aged 8, 13 and 16. I have been a Children’s Photographer for many years but have become over the years passionate about children’s education and the additional support some need to flourish. This is how I have come to work as an Integration aide. Other things about me include hobbies such as sewing, gardening, mosaics, and photography, basically anything creative. Fave movie - The Greatest Showman; food - I can't go past a box of cheezels without grabbing a handful, and I love holidays in our caravan.

Stephanie Watt  
Integration Aide

As an Integration Aide, I’m here to help. I am a big advocate for giving back and lending a helping hand. After all, a passing smile can make someone’s day. I’m new to this school, so please say hi and introduce yourself. I would love to meet you. I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you, and starting my journey at Diamond Valley College.
This week I am calling for nominations for our College Council, an important way for parents to become involved in the decision making of the college. College councils play a key role in Victorian government schools. Participating as a college council member is a rewarding and challenging experience providing the opportunity to support the principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for our students. We currently have 7 parent vacancies and hope to fill these to ensure effective parent representation.

Council meets on the third Monday of each month from 5.30 and members are asked to sit on at least one sub committee meeting, these meet on the first Monday of the Month. Sub committees include Uniform, Curriculum, Finance and Facilities.

If you are interested in nominating or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at bennett.allison.a@edumail.vic.gov.au.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those members whose two year tenure end in March. To Jodie Versteegen, Lee Williams, Kath Ball, Yvette Davidson, Jenny Thuys and Brent Barbera I thank you for your generosity of time and valuable contribution. I hope that you will consider nominating for a further tenure on council but do wish to formally thank you for the contribution you have made to Diamond Valley College to this point.

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools’ Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of the school’s collection statement, found on our website at https://www.dvallcoll.vic.edu.au/about-diamond-valley-college/policies-and-procedures/

For more information about privacy, see: Schools’ Privacy Policy – information for parents. This information is also available in nine community languages.

If your child is arriving late to school please provide them with a note to explain why they are late so that Compass can be updated correctly.

If your child needs to be picked up early, please send a note with them to school and get them to come to the General Office and we will provide them with an early leavers pass which will allow them to leave their class early.

Statement of Commitment
DVC is committed to Child Safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect children, as well as staff and volunteers.
On Tuesday 18th February all students and staff will be heading to Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre for the house swimming carnival.

The DVC House swimming carnival allows students to compete in age group swimming and novelty events. Participation is the main focus and participating students earn points that accumulate for their allocated house.

On the serious side, students who perform at the appropriate level will advance to the Division swimming carnival (Nillumbik/Banyule) on Friday 28th February 2020.

In addition to the swimming events there are quite a few other activities for the students and staff to get involved in such as Freestyle fashion, face painting, beach volleyball, diving, bombing, waterslide, or relax and spend some time with friends.

There are 4 houses: Wilson (yellow/gold), Hubbard (red), Bass (green) and Peers (blue). Students and staff dress up in their assigned house colours. Each student can see which house they are in by logging on to their Compass page.

This is a whole school event where all students and teaching staff are required to attend. It’s an enjoyable day and a great way for us all to have some fun, get to know each other a bit better and develop our school culture.

Each student requires written consent to be off school grounds. This can be done online through your Compass account. Go to the event and follow the instructions to give consent and payment if required. If you have any questions regarding consent or payment, please contact the general office on 9438 1411.
Last week we welcomed 175 new year 7s to our college. We started the week with a range of home group activities so that students could start to meet new people. However, after just one day it was ‘into high school’ as students learnt to read their timetable, use their lockers and move classrooms. All students are settling in well and are now looking forward to camp in a few weeks time. The best way to explain their start of their high school journey is to hear from the students themselves. From their words it is clear that they are excited about their future at Diamond Valley College.

**Charlie McCully**
So far my time at DVC has been so fun! I was very anxious about coming to high school, but as soon as I finished my first day... I knew that this school was definitely the right pick for me! I have enjoyed English and music a lot, and my teachers seem very nice. I’m excited to have begun my high school journey at a great school with my friends.

**Oscar**
My start to Year 7 has been an emotional roller coaster. At the start I was really nervous but now that we have been here for a couple of days it is calm. The one thing I am dreading the most is the vaccination.

**Phoebe Whitworth**
From the moment I walked in the school grounds I felt a rush of happiness run through me. I love food tech and PE is so much fun! One amazing thing that happened was meeting lots of people. It hasn’t even been a week and I have already made some great bonds! I’m really excited for continuing this year and extending my learning.

**Annon**
My first week at DVC has been so fun and exciting. Some of my favourite things have been meeting all the teachers, making new friends and getting to learn all the subjects that I didn’t learn at primary school.

**Ebony Walpole**
Wow, this school is amazing. I have enjoyed every bit of high school. The teachers are so nice and it’s just so amazing to come to school every day looking forward to it. I have loved making new friends and getting to know more people. It’s different going to different classes but it’s good because we get to, know different parts of the school. I love my subjects, the lessons are so much fun.

**Izzy Glynn**
Some good things that happened are getting to learn new things and meet new people and new teachers. All of the teachers are really nice and understanding. Some things I have enjoyed so far are science, maths and humanities because all of them are really fun and interesting.

**Lisa LePage**
DVC, Diamond Valley College, more like best high school in Melbourne! No wait, Victoria! Australia! You get the point. My first week at DVC has been brilliant, we did soooo many fundthings! We started doing class and moving around the school. It was amazing.

**Anthony**
My first impression of DVC is that it has been very fun but also very challenging because I’ve needed to remember all the things I need for class. I’ve loved meeting so many new people and also seeing old friends.

**Jai Crisp**
Before I started I thought it would be hard to move between rooms and get the right books. But I have been surprised that it wasn’t really hard to remember and move between rooms.

**Jed**
I think DVC is a good school because it has lots of subjects I like.

**Adam**
My first week of school at Diamond Valley has been really enjoyable. The teachers have been really nice to everyone and have made us feel welcome. It’s been a big change having lockers and trying to get to class on time after the locker bell.

**Hope Garth**
Last Thursday the Year 7s started their high school journey at Diamond Valley College. We gathered in the gym before heading off with our homegroup teachers. When we arrived in our classroom we played some ‘Getting To Know You’ games and got our lockers for the year, before it was recess time. Recess was very crowded but we found out that the canteen sold delicious food at both recess and lunch!

Learning our lock combinations and how to open them was our biggest challenge for the day, but it has gotten easier since then. As the week has gone by we have started to get use to the routines of high school. I still need to get use to getting up early to catch the bus, but I’m excited for the year ahead.
On Monday - Wednesday this week the Year 12’s attended Study Camp in Anglesea at Camp Wilkin.

Students completed several English workshop sessions, had a keynote speaker - Scott Harris - who also ran a Resilience workshop with the group, and they also completed private study. Students participated in surfing, high ropes and other activities at the camp. Students spent time with Home Group teachers setting goals for the year and bonded as a group. On the way home students visited Deakin University Waterfront Campus and were given a tour and presentation on life at university and programs offered. I’m sure this Camp will put students in good stead for the busy year to come.

Thank you to the staff who attended and gave up their time to run activities with the students.
Statement of Commitment

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Welcome back for a brand new year in 2020.
Benvenuto per un anno nuovo in 2020.

**MY EXPERIENCE IN ITALY AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM SEPTEMBER 2019 TO JANUARY 2020**

My time in Italy has now, unfortunately come to an end. In November I got to experience snowfall without being on a mountain. My host sister and I saw it snowing outside after lunch and decided to make our way outside. We did all the cliché things, such as a snowball fight, snow angels and building snowmen. I was also fortunate enough to spend Christmas with my host family. We had a small lunch with some family friends, and I got to eat handmade tortellini! I also had a sleepover with some of my exchange friends and we went shopping in Bologna. It is really good to hear about their experiences and how they differ to mine and chat with new friends I have made that were in the same situation as me. As the experience was coming to a conclusion, I spent a lot of time after school hanging out with friends and going places. Two of my friends took me to climb one of the twin towers of Bologna. The view from the top was amazing making the climb up worth it. Even the simple time we spent having lunch together after school added to the experience making it really memorable. In the last few days a big group of my friends took me out to lunch and we had a party on the last day of school to say goodbye. I was really sad to leave all the friends I’ve made but am glad for social media as it allows us to keep in touch. Leaving my host family was also really hard as I became close with them over my exchange. Now that I am back the Australian lifestyle feels different but at the same time a welcome change. I miss my time in Italy but am grateful for the opportunity.

Jemma Sheppard
Year 11 Italian
The library has been buzzing since the start of this year, with the Year 7 classes visiting for their orientation session and many more students borrowing books. VCE students have been using the space to study too. Lunchtimes are a hive of activity with students playing board, card or PC games, chatting and reading. We’ve had a full house all this week.

Students are also invited to come in at lunchtime and read for the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge. We have started recording the books already!

**Borrowing:**
Students can borrow Fiction, non-fiction and magazines to 2 weeks, after which they are able to renew their loans if nobody else has reserved the resource.

**Our opening times:**
8:30am to 4:30pm Mon-Fri. We are open all day with the exception of recess 10:30am-10:45, and the start of lunch 12:30pm-12:45.

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**Maths Help**

‘Maths Help’ is a support program open to all DVC students to enable them to obtain extra help with their maths work. The sessions are run by the College’s Mathematics Teachers and allow students the opportunity to ask about difficult questions, clarify aspects of classwork they have not understood, or complete their maths homework.

To get the best out of ‘Maths Help’, students should come along with specific questions to ask, e.g. “Could you help me with Question 4 of Exercise 3.4?” or “I am having difficulty multiplying fractions, could you go over the steps again?”

‘Maths Help’ sessions run Mondays after school in B3, finishing at 4pm.

For any further information regarding this program, please contact the Mathematics Domain Leader, Glenys Kidd, or your child’s Mathematics Teacher.
Welcome back to 2020

Bus fees are now outstanding and students who have not paid Term 1 will be refused travel as of Monday 10 February until payment is received. Please note several buses on the College Bus Network are now up to capacity and students on waiting lists will be allocated seats where fees are not paid.

If you have not completed an Application to Travel form for 2020 and wish to use this service, please be aware that you may be placed on a waiting list.

If you have registered for the bus but have decided to use another form of transport could you please notify the General Office as soon as possible.

Community Safety Notice

Now that school is back, to ensure the safety of students and assist with parking and traffic issues, Nillumbik Shire Council’s Authorised Community Safety Officers will be conducting regular School Zone patrols.

Officers will be mainly patrolling No Stopping Zones, Disabled Zones, Double Parking, Bus Zones and Parking Bays with five and 10-minute time frames.

Where necessary, infringement notices will be issued. In most instances, officers will photograph offending vehicles and the infringement notice will be sent in the post or attached to your vehicle.

Please be respectful of Council officers while they conduct these important safety patrols.
Eltham Junior Football Club

REGISTRATION DAY

Jumper fittings/Training tops/Merchandise/Mouth guards
Boys Under 9’s to 17’s
Girls Under 10’s to 18’s

9th February 2020
10am to 2pm
Central, Panther Place Eltham

All new players welcome

To register go to
www.elthamjfc.com.au
Mobile: 0438 778 325

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