



## Newsletter No. 3

Term 2/May 2017

### From the Principal, Peta Kourbelis

#### Open Day

Our Open Day held on Wednesday 10 May provided members of the wider community, including prospective families, with the opportunity to observe quality teaching and learning first-hand.

As I toured parents around our College, I was extremely impressed with the learning that is happening in our classrooms and the welcoming nature of our students. It certainly was a wonderful day of celebration. Thank you to all staff and students for making the day a success.

#### Year 12 Students on Track

I was very pleased with the increased number of Year 12 students who attended the scheduled holiday workshops. Staff will continue to support students and provide assistance in the Senior Centre to ensure our students successfully complete their SACE. Thank you to the many parents who were able to attend our interview night. Ongoing communication is essential in supporting our students to stay on track.

#### Facilities Update

Construction for our own STEM 'Mission to Mars' Space School has commenced and is making good progress. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by the end of Term 2. We have also been informed that the construction of the STEM Works project is due to begin in August. The facilities will be complimented with state of the art equipment and resources. It is certainly an exciting time for our school community.

#### Online Newsletter

Hamilton's newsletters are currently available online through our website. We encourage our families to access our newsletter electronically as this appears to be a more reliable form of delivery than our current distribution through Care Group. I do appreciate, however, that this may not be convenient for all families. If you prefer to receive the newsletter through the Care Group, please email [dl.0823.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0823.info@schools.sa.edu.au), type 'HSC Newsletter' in the subject line and type your child's name in the message section. This will ensure that you receive a hard copy.



Class of 2017, final Sports Day

## Diary Dates

### Uniform Shop

Tuesdays 8.30 - 10.00 am

For further assistance please contact the Front Office on 8275 8300.

### May

- 17 Term 1 Achievement Assembly
- 24 Governing Council
- 31 Reconciliation Assembly

### June

- 9 Student Free Day
- 12 Public Holiday – Queen's Birthday
- 16 Newsletter No 4 due
- 21 Governing Council
- 21 Year 8 Immunisation
- 26 Semester 2 begins

### July

- 3 Year 8 & 9 Roundtable Presentations
- 7 End of Term 2 – dismiss 2:15 pm  
Reports distributed

## STUDENT FREE DAY Friday 9 June

815 Marion Road  
Mitchell Park SA 5043  
t 8275 8300  
e [admin@hamcoll.sa.edu.au](mailto:admin@hamcoll.sa.edu.au)  
w [www.hamcoll.sa.edu.au](http://www.hamcoll.sa.edu.au)

### Year 12 & SACE News

#### Year 12

During Wednesday's Pathways, Year 12 students have had the opportunity to meet staff from Adelaide Universities, and discuss course options for post 2017. So far, we have had the University of South Australia (UNISA) and Flinders University visit our Campus, with Adelaide University and TAFE SA visiting later this term. We welcome back Elevate Education on Wednesday 24 May at 1:30pm in the Senior Centre, to intensively work with the Year 12s around time management skills for the coming busy months.

Past School Captains, Emma Brooks and Ben McLean, visited the Year 12s recently to discuss how to manage the pressures of Year 12 with part-time work, family and sporting commitments. Emma and Ben answered specific questions from current students about the Research Project, and provided relevant advice about day-to-day study skills during class and study time.

The Term 1 Stage 2 Holiday Workshops proved to be successful, with high attendance. Thursday after-school, from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm in the Senior Centre, I will be available for editing support to all Year 12 students completing their Research Project. A reminder that the Research Project will be submitted to the SACE Board in Week 8 this term.



#### SACE (South Australian Certificate of Education) News

In Week 8 this term, the Stage 2 Research Project External Assessment component - Review or Evaluation - will be submitted to the SACE Board for marking. The following week, Week 9, the Research Project School Assessment - Folio and Outcome - will be collected by the SACE Board for Moderation. There are no exceptions to these deadlines. Should you have any queries about the SACE assessment processes, please feel free to call me at the College or email: [Tamara.Seaman@hamcoll.sa.edu.au](mailto:Tamara.Seaman@hamcoll.sa.edu.au)

Semester 1 Stage 1 subjects will be completed in Week 8 this term, and students will begin their Semester 2 subjects in Week 9. Students receive 10 SACE credits for the successful completion of all Stage 1 Semester subjects.

I encourage families to explore the SACE Website and read the up-to-date information about the modernisation of the SACE in 2017/18. I also suggest that students log onto SACE Schools Online to check their current SACE pattern, and continue to become familiar and monitor this site throughout the year.

**Ms Tamara Seaman, Year 12/SACE Coordinator**  
*Together we can help students achieve their best*

## Careers & Employment Expo

The Adelaide Careers and Employment Expo is a leading careers, training, education and employment event in South Australia. The event offers the opportunity for students, job seekers and career changers to connect with organisations for guidance, clarity and opportunities in relation to career options.

The Adelaide event will also include the Australian Defence Force Careers Expo, showcasing all the career opportunities within the Australian Defence Force.

#### Adelaide Careers & Employment Expo & Australian Defence Force Careers Expo

**Friday 26 May - 9 am to 3 pm**  
**Saturday 27 May - 10 am to 4 pm**

**Free Admission**  
**Adelaide Showground**

### Year 8 Report

In Term 2 students' first Care Group pathway class was a report reflection. Care Group pathways for the remainder of the term will be learning about cyber bullying and preparing for their Roundtable Presentations. Year 8 and 9 Roundtable Presentations are scheduled for Monday 3 July. Students in Year 9 will be expected to construct a 20 minute presentation on the following: letter of analysis of personality/aptitude testing, a piece of writing completed in English and a practical task from any subject. Students in Year 8 must also prepare a 20 minute presentation and will be expected to write a letter of introduction, share a written task from a subject other than English and a practical task.

Preparation for this presentation will be completed in Pathways and lesson time. Year 8 students will be shown an example of the PowerPoint presentation they are expected to construct. Parents/caregivers will receive a letter in the post with further information about how they can support their student by booking in a time slot to watch the presentation.

As the cooler mornings are now here we expect all Year 8 and 9 students to check that they have a Hamilton winter top ie navy wool-blend jumper. Any clothing other than this is unacceptable as College uniform. It is also unacceptable to wear leggings to school as they are not appropriate for school wear nor are they College uniform. School long pants can be purchased. If there are any concerns with payment for these items please contact Ms Russell, Mr Dawson or a counsellor to arrange a payment plan.

**Ms Amanda Russell**  
Year 8 Coordinator

### Attendance at School

It is important that students attend school regularly and are absent as little as possible.

Where an absence from school is unavoidable, parents and caregivers can:

- Ring the school on 8275 8300
- Send an email to [frontoffice@hamcoll.sa.edu.au](mailto:frontoffice@hamcoll.sa.edu.au)
- Write a note in your child's diary.

We appreciate timely information about student absences provided by families, as we are required to code all student absences.

## ISEC Kangaroo Island Ecotour

On Wednesday 5 April, our first ever Intensive Secondary English Course (ISEC) class went on an 'ecotour' of Kangaroo Island accompanied by Flora Botting, Jane Young and myself. Over the three action-packed days, the ISEC students got to experience the wonders of Australian Flora and Fauna whilst learning about the first man to circumnavigate Australia, Matthew Flinders. The class visited iconic Kangaroo Island locations such as Seal Bay, Remarkable Rocks, Flinders Chase National Park, Little Sahara, Cape du Couedic (Admirals Arch), Stokes Bay, Kingscote,

Hog Bay, Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Oil Distillery, Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and Penneshaw.

The ISEC students were fantastic on the trip and represented Hamilton Secondary College in an outstanding manner. I would like to commend both Flora Botting and Jane Young for putting together such an enjoyable and educational trip for the ISEC students. I am sure that the students will remember their time on Kangaroo Island for the rest of their lives.

**Mr Angus Fisher**  
ISEC, PE and EALD Teacher



## Student Voice

In Term 1 we surveyed students to look at their reading habits. The survey has recently closed and the amount of responses was pleasing. Analysis of results will be in the next newsletter.

**Mr Malcolm Lobban**  
Assistant Principal  
Adult and International Education

## Homestay Accommodation

Have you ever considered hosting an international student? It can be a very enriching experience for your family and build lifelong friendships. We are always seeking homestay families for visiting students who can stay usually between two and ten weeks. To find out more information please contact  
Jane Young  
Phone 8275 8315

## Road Safety

SAPOL's Road Safety Section recently attended Hamilton and delivered a road safety presentation to Year 12 students entitled 'Getting Home Safely', presented by a currently serving police officer. This presentation is designed to empower young people to make informed choices, educated decisions and to foster change through open discussion on subjects such as peer group pressure, choices, risks and consequences associated in driving a motor vehicle. The session documented an actual fatal crash which occurred on 'Muck-up Day', the final day of school, when an 18-year-old driver crashed the vehicle he was driving while unlicensed, drink driving and speeding. The crash killed one friend and seriously injured the driver and another friend. SAPOL's presentation explores the crash and the subsequent social and legal consequences with the students.

The Road Safety Section also provides a free bi-monthly e-newsletter 'Talkin Road Safety' to schools which provides articles on road safety which are of interest to drivers and other road-users.

There are a number of websites which may be of further value to you and the students.

- [raa.com.au](http://raa.com.au)
- [mylicence.sa.gov.au](http://mylicence.sa.gov.au)
- [sapolice.sa.gov.au](http://sapolice.sa.gov.au)
- [howsafeisyourcar.com.au](http://howsafeisyourcar.com.au)

For any further information on Road Safety please feel free to contact the Road Safety Section on 8207 6586 or by Email: [RoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au](mailto:RoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au)

**Mr Steve Kelly**  
Year 11 Coordinator

## International News

During the school holidays Mr Steve Kelly went to Japan with a group of students from the Southern Area schools including Year 10 student Jada Zilm representing Hamilton. They went to Mishima High School near Mt Fuji. Be sure to read the report about this trip in the next newsletter!

This term we welcome some new international students from Japan, Vietnam, Italy and Korea. This makes a total of 38 International students in the College for Term 2 and more are expected in Term 3. Tatsuya Suguro, Nene Akiyama and Ririki Sugiyama from Mishima High School are with us in Year 10 until December and we wish them a very successful time at Hamilton. Jiwon Yoo from South Korea and Huu The Dan Cao and Huu Tai Nguyen from Vietnam have joined the ISEC program with a view to become long term graduate students. It is nice to see that Kaho Nozawa has returned to us for Term 2 and 3 in 2017 after spending five weeks at Hamilton in 2016. Flavio Morellato from Turin in Italy has joined us for Term 2 as a Study Abroad Student.

Term 1 was a busy time with study tours from Japan and we had a study tour visit from a new group from Shiganara. They are hoping to

come again next year. The Ashima High School visit was also very successful in March 2017 and it was good to see our friends again following the outbound trip last December. I am delighted to announce that Hamilton has been invited to bring students to Osaka in Japan in September 2018 for a return visit. If you are interested in finding out more about participating on a student trip to Japan, please contact Ms Flora Botting and come to the lunchtime meetings which will be happening soon.

Team International is planning now for five more Study Tours during Term 3 and 4 and a new ISEC class. We are always seeking comfortable and safe accommodation for our students. If you have a spare room and you would like to become a homestay family for short term or long term visits, please contact Ms Jane Young to begin the Homestay Application process. Families are paid \$270 a week per student and first need to submit an application about your family, complete a police check for everyone over 18 years in the house and have a home visit.

**Ms Flora Botting**  
Manager, International Program

## Zone Sport Report

Hamilton Secondary College entered six teams in the Term 1 competition season this year. All played finals in the last week of Term 1, irrespective of their position on the premiership ladder.

### Year 8/9 Boys Basketball

After only dropping two games in the season the Year 8/9 boys Basketball team, which was led by Mr Tony Virgo, made the Grand Final against an undefeated Seaview team. Going in as the underdog didn't worry the team because they knew their best was good enough. After putting in an incredible effort, unfortunately the team just fell short losing by nine points to a very strong team. Hopefully we can go one step further in the Term 2/3 competition.

Congratulations to the following team members who finished runners up:

Luke Garin, Gordan Shaw-Newland, Shaakia Shanmugum, Zimri Waetford, Phoenix Spicer, Zi Rui Zhang, Kaelan Wade.

### Open Boys Soccer

Travelling to Urrbrae after completing the season in 3rd position, this team led by Mr Matt Heald, demonstrated exceptional skills in both final matches played. They duly won their Semi Final 3-1 against a very talented Australian Science & Mathematics School (ASMS). They continued this fine play working as a team and playing very solid defence narrowly defeating Urrbrae in the Grand Final 4-2. Congratulations on yet another successful Indoor Soccer campaign. Hamilton now have won Indoor Soccer Championships two years in a row.

You can see the Premiers flag hanging up in the front office foyer.

Congratulations to the following team members who finished up as premiers:

Jarid McKee, Ton Longkaw, Jangar Teah, Mohamed Geberabi, Muhammad Syed Mustafa, Gras Amekata, Kailyb Ashton, Lachlan Veasey, Bui Quang Truong, Vuong Ha Long.

The other four Zone Sport teams from Term 1 performed extremely well in their final games. Well done to every student who participated in Zone Sport during Term 1. A big thank you goes to the coaches as well.

The next season for Zone Sport happens from Week 4 Term 2 until Week 4 Term 3. Hamilton Knights are looking to have eight teams in different sports such as Badminton, Netball, Volleyball, Basketball and Soccer. If your son or daughter would like to join please grab a participation form from Mr Gormlie or the front office.

## SASSA Athletics

### Division Win for Hamilton Secondary College

Hamilton Secondary College travelled to Santos Stadium on 5 April, eager to improve on their performance in 2016 which resulted in promotion to division F1, at the Secondary School Sports SA Track and Field Competition.

A strong team of 52 athletes did not disappoint, winning their division at this meet for the first time since 2014. The boys were outstanding, winning the boys competition by a close margin of 27 points over Woodville High School. The girls performed admirably to finish 3rd, 74 points off 1st placed Charles Campbell Secondary School. Once again, Hamilton had nominated competitors for all the programmed events, and won a total of 58 certificates, 30 of them being 1st certificates.

Athletes who attended lifted to another level on the day with many of the athletes achieving personal best times and distances. When not competing, the students' encouragement of fellow team members was a distinct advantage on the day. A highlight of the day was from one of our ISEC students Ryo Shibamoto who competed in Long Jump. He got the whole crowd involved when he jumped to a new record of 6.10m. A considerable improvement in the 4 x 100 metre relays this year was testament to this vocal support.

With a win in the division of F1, Hamilton will be moving up a division next year and will be hoping to repeat this incredible effort.

It was a fantastic finish to the day and I look forward to next year. The students represented Hamilton to a high standard and deserved this victory.

Congratulations to the following students who performed marvelously by winning their event.

Gras Amekata  
Under 16 Boys 400m, 800m & 4 x 100m Relay  
Kailyb Ashton  
Open Boys 4 x 100m Relay  
Matthew Aylmore  
Under 14 Boys Long Jump  
Sam Cooper  
Open Girls High Jump  
Isaac Cross  
Under 15 Boys Shot Put  
Nicole Del Pilar  
Under 14 Girls Shot Put  
Lizza Delaney-Carter  
Under 15 Girls High Jump  
Skye Downs  
Under 16 Girls 200m, Long Jump  
Kristian Garin  
Under 16 Boys Long Jump, 4 x 100m  
Luke Garin  
Under 14 Boys Triple Jump  
Jarid McKee  
Open Boys 200m, High Jump, 4 x 100m Relay  
Daniel Newby  
Under 16 Boys 4x100 m Relay  
Ricky O'Loughlin  
Under 16 Boys 100m, 200m, 4 x 100m Relay  
Nawshad Shah  
Under 14 Boys 100m, 200m, 800m  
Ryo Shibamoto  
Open Boys Long Jump, Triple Jump  
Malcolm Sievers  
Open Boys 4 x 100m Relay  
Phoenix Spicer  
Under 15 Boys 100m, High Jump  
Jangar Teah  
Open Boys 4 x 100m Relay



## Ice Factor Report Term 1

### Hamilton Hornets

The Hamilton Ice Factor program for 2017 has begun in a very positive way. With a number of senior players unable to continue in the program because they have moved into Year 12, new team manager Mr Andrew Gormlie has brought in seven new players to the team. Those new players are Benny Daniel, Brodie Dornan-Leach, Matthew Leask, Chelsea Moore, Hayley Provan, Elwood Roberts and Phoenix Spicer. The new players will learn life skills through Ice Hockey and will develop their literacy and numeracy skills through involvement in tasks such as team management, keeping statistics, producing a newsletter, fundraising and developing promotional material from our returning players, coaches and mentors throughout the year.

With returning players Max Black, Laurana Cottle, Chiara Dean, James Sampson and Kieren Turner the team will continue to get better and have leadership during our training sessions every Wednesday morning at the Ice Arena.

At the conclusion of each Term the students in the Ice Factor program participate in a tournament against other schools. The Term 1 report from the tournament is below.

With four new players competing on the day it was always going to be a learning curve for the Hamilton Hornets. The four team members who have been in the program for many years, put in a mountain of work during the day. They led and supported the new members in a committed way which helped the Hornets to finish 3rd out of seven teams. This tournament shows how much hard work and development the team achieved in only eight weeks of training. A massive mention needs to go to Max Black who played 17 out of 21 games over the day in goal keeper. When other teams didn't have a goal keeper, Max put his hand up to help out and have more ice time.

The Hornets hope to continue to develop on their game and teamwork to go one step further next term.



## Sports Awards

### Jake Riley – Represented Australia Under 18s in Ice Hockey

During Term 1 Jake Riley (Year 12) represented the Under 18s Australian Ice Hockey team at the International Ice Hockey Federation World Championships. He travelled to Sweden for two weeks for training before heading off to Serbia for another two weeks to compete in the Championship.

Jake was selected in this Australian team by being awarded MVP in the Australian Junior League (Under 20s) and was part of the winning team.

The team Jake competed with in the championship won Gold in division 2B. This is the first time that Australia has won in this division and back to back at this Championship. Jake who captained the team was awarded best player against Netherlands and was the only player to score a goal against them.

From these fantastic performances Jake is now playing in the Australian Men's league for the Adelaide Adrenaline. Jake's aim, after finishing his Year 12 studies, is to head overseas and play Ice Hockey at the highest level.



### Phoenix Spicer – Represented South Australia Indigenous Team in AFL

During the Term 1 holidays Phoenix Spicer (Year 9) represented the South Australia Indigenous Team (Under 15) at the AFL Diversity Championships in Blacktown NSW.

The team which was coached by Graham Johncock and Jason Porplyzia put in extremely good performances throughout the tournament, narrowly missing out on the Grand Final after losing the Semi-Final to Victoria. They finished up with three wins and three losses.

Throughout the tournament Phoenix played through the middle and across half forward. He was in the best players twice and kicked six goals. His best game came against Western Australia where he was awarded best player on the ground and kicked a goal.

We hope to see Phoenix continue to improve his football where one day we may see him running around in the AFL.

Congratulations Jake and Phoenix



## Sports Day Report

### Red House Win

On a splendid autumn day for athletics, Red House has stolen back the trophy after losing narrowly last year to Blue House.

There was a great atmosphere on the field this year with students getting involved as much as they could. In a change this year we started off the day with the 100m with all students in their house area cheering on their teammates. It was evident that it would be a close day, with early scores displaying a tight race to the final victory. Every event over the day was well represented by students in both houses. Novelty events were keenly contested over the course of the day, with the Water Relay and Tunnel Ball appearing the most popular.

Once again, the staff versus student contests were eagerly anticipated. Staff versus student contests have become a significant fixture on the Sports Day program over the past few years. The Tug of War against an equal number of Year 12 students was a closely fought affair, with the Staff surprise winners over the Year 12 students even without our wildcard, Mr Tony Virgo. The popularity of the staff versus students 8 x 50m relay saw an extremely talented staff team, and Year 12 students' representatives from both Red and Blue House do battle in the last race on the day. I'm extremely happy to announce in a nail biter the staff put in a huge effort late to come out victors. This now has the staff going back to back in this competitive race and will be looking to go for the three-peat next year. Students now have a 12 month wait to exact retribution.

It was at the Presentation Ceremony where the very tight final result was revealed, Red 1294 to Blue 1248, to the delight of one half of the audience. Incredibly 19 records were broken over the day which shows the athletic talent of our students at Hamilton Secondary College. The following students were acknowledged for their excellent individual efforts, and formed the core of a College athletics squad that competed at Santos Stadium on Wednesday 5 April.

U14 Girls: Libby Edwards & Mikayla Norman

U14 Boys: Nawshad Shah

U15 Girls: Kylie Mburu

U15 Boys: Phoenix Spicer

U16 Girls: Skye Downs

U16 Boys: Ricky O'Loughlin & Gras Amekata

Open Girls: Alana Baker

Open Boys: Jarid McKee

Thanks to everyone who participated and assisted in making Sports Day 2017 a successful event.

**Mr Andrew Gormlie**  
Sports Coordinator



## Vocational Education and Training (VET) Update

Most VET courses include a compulsory Workplace Health and Safety unit of competency. Successful completion of the theory component of this unit is required, along with other WHS training, prior to any students undertaking a work placement in their particular industry.

The students undertaking Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care recently undertook their WHS training with trainer Glenis Tenison-Woods. The students accessed Safe Work SA and used the activity sections available to identify hazards in the workplace.



### First Aid Short Course

The College is planning to run a one day short course in First Aid. We are still deciding on the date for this term and the cost. Successful completion of the course could gain participants entry into the Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability) VET course for 2018. If your son/daughter is interested then please email Heather Thomas to express interest. My email is [heather.thomas@hamcoll.sa.edu.au](mailto:heather.thomas@hamcoll.sa.edu.au)

**Ms Heather Thomas**  
Assistant Principal, VET Curriculum  
Pathways/RTO Manager



Students from the RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol) Short Course held on Wednesday 5 April.

## Year 9 STEM

Students have been busy in Semester 1 working on The Maglev Trains Project - a train that floats on a magnetic field above a track instead of rolling on wheels; short for magnetic levitation.



Working in a group they need to apply the knowledge of how technological systems function, use scientific theories and explanations and mathematical concepts to solve problems. That is: Transportation; Power and Energy; Construction; and Communication. Students are learning and experimenting with: Friction - that causes a loss of energy, generates heat and mechanical wear on the parts of a system; Aerodynamics - the branch of science having to do with forces created by air such as streamlining; and Magnets - a material that attracts iron and certain other materials by virtue of a surrounding field of electrons; magnets have two poles, north and south. Unlike poles attract (North and South) like poles repel (South and South).

Students are experiencing the intellectual processes of being a design technologist, scientist and mathematician by: utilising a Design Process, Design Criteria and Constraints List; following time frames: completing observation checklists; building Magnetic Pendulum and Levitating Cylinder (Figure 2); Experiment with the principle of Maglev Trains in groups by building simple prototypes (Figure 1); collecting evidence including questions, answers and photos; collaborating by defining the problems; group and classroom brainstorming; building mind-maps of all discussions, thoughts and concepts; researching and generating ideas and exploring possibilities; identifying criteria and constraints and exploring possibilities of track design (Figure 3); selecting variable approaches and developing a design proposal; model a design proposal using CAD technology (Figure 5); Use 3D technology printing machines (Figure 4); designing, experimenting with and building an electromagnet and or propelled drive system; creating, manufacturing and testing a completed model; refining the final model; communicate all results, reporting with exemplars; and completing a co-operative Learning Self Evaluation report on the completed Maglev project.

Mr Jac van Hoof  
Design and Technology, STEM and VET Teacher



Figure 1: Simple Prototype of a magnetic train

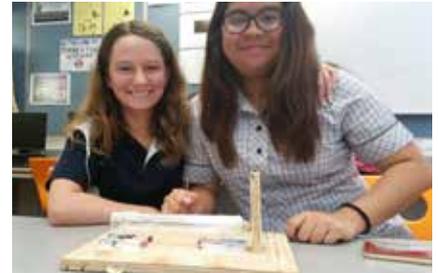


Figure 2: Maddy and Nicole have success with a floating magnetic cylinder



Figure 3: Luke building a magnetic track



Figure 4: 3D printed propelled prototype train model

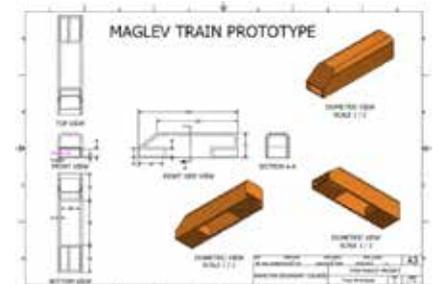


Figure 5: implementing design CAD modelling

**CAR BOOT SALE**  
**ASCOT PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
 Saturday 13th May  
 7:30am ~ 1:00pm  
 \$10 per car, \$20 with trailer  
 Book by calling 0434 895 144  
 Sellers from 600 am.  
 Limited spaces available. Bookings essential  
**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

Ascot Park Primary School, 1-37 Pildappa Avenue, Park Holme

**STUDENT  
 FREE DAY  
 Friday 9 June**



## Why bother learning a foreign language?

This is a question foreign language teachers often get asked. If a student doesn't intend to work or live overseas, then what is the point: especially as subject selection in SACE Stage 2 has narrowed to accommodate Research Project. It might surprise you to learn, though, that Australians speak more than 350 languages at home and at work, and that 1 in 4 Australians were born overseas. So I'd bet a large amount of you that you meet someone who speaks a language other than English every day. The importance, then, of developing our students' ability to interact and communicate with people from other cultures with respect and dignity rightly seems a vital part of their education.

With national high school enrolments for foreign languages dropping from 40% in the 1960s to just 11%, we language teachers face an uphill battle. Research into Asian language studies at high school has found that students' two greatest barriers to learning a foreign language are 1) restricted subject selection and access, and 2) perceived difficulty. Yes, learning a foreign language can be challenging as it takes time and patience – something we are losing appreciation for in a world where we expect instant results thanks to rapid technological advances. These same advances, however, provide almost limitless tools to aid foreign language learning. By installing an app or two, students can download flashcards on their phone, take virtual tours to Hiroshima, practice their Hiragana stroke order on the bus, and find out anything they wish to know about Japan with just a few keystrokes. I wish I had access to all that when I started learning Japanese!

The benefits of learning a second language while you're young far outweigh the negatives – did you know it actually makes your brain grow? We've known for some time that foreign language skills can potentially increase job prospects and increase ability to interact in an increasingly globalised world. More recent studies show it actually makes you smarter: your brain grows as your memory, perception and reasoning skills strengthen. These strengthened skills then transfer across to students' other subjects, because to form sentences in Japanese for example, you need to know what an adjective is, what an adverb is. You develop writing/listening/reading/speaking skills simultaneously, so your multi-tasking ability increases. Lastly, foreign language learning teaches us to take small risks, make mistakes, and learn from them – life skills any student needs to develop, and many struggle with.

In terms of relevance of learning Japanese as our foreign language at Hamilton, it actually has the highest enrolments of any foreign language in secondary schools nationwide, proving its popularity and usefulness. Therefore we are incredibly fortunate to offer Year 8 students 2.5 hours of Japanese lessons per week to develop skills and capabilities mandated in the Australian Curriculum for foreign language learning. Our Year 9 cohort is small, but wouldn't it be great to generate sufficient interest to offer Japanese through to Year 12. To boost interest we launched a lunchtime Anime Club on Mondays from Week 6, as well as reinvigorated our Japanese room to provide a richer cultural experience.

We also have an extraordinary number of

opportunities for students to homestay, buddy or simply interact with visiting Japanese students throughout the year, as well as an option to visit Japan. I participated in two such study tours at high school, and it certainly changed the way I saw the world and interacted with other cultures. I returned with a deep appreciation of the Japanese values of respect, harmony, kindness, selflessness and gratitude – values we can at times lose sight of in Australian daily life.

To successfully operate in Australia in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century it is vital our students learn skills to be able to interact with people from other cultures. Learning a foreign language teaches us more than vocab or alphabets, it teaches us tolerance, understanding, intercultural communication, and respect for others – it teaches us how to live and work harmoniously in our multicultural society. The Japanese alphabets (yes, all 3 of them!) can be tricky to master, but with just 5-10 minutes of practise a day you can be *pera-pera* (fluent) in no time. So, why bother learning a foreign language? To build a stronger brain, increase job prospects, and develop life skills!

ありがとうございます

If you have any queries regarding Japanese at Hamilton, please contact Tom Dawson at [tom.dawson@hamcoll.sa.edu.au](mailto:tom.dawson@hamcoll.sa.edu.au)

*"The limits of my language are the limits of my world,"* Ludwig Wittgenstein

*"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."* Frank Smith, Psycholinguist

**Mr Tom Dawson**  
Japanese Teacher



## Newsletters

Did you know that you can look at this current Newsletter and others published in 2017 by logging on to the College Website and follow the link to Publications. Alternatively the web address is: <http://www.hamcoll.sa.edu.au/publication.htm>



<http://www.facebook.com/HamiltonSecondaryCollege>