IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 9th April - Last day of Term
Tuesday 28th April - Student free day - TAFE
Automotive students commence work placement.

Wednesday 29th April - Start of term
Tuesday 12th May - TAFE (Student free day)

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian

Welcome to the second Manea Senior College newsletter for 2009.

As Term 1 comes to an end, I would like to commend all our teachers and support staff for their efforts in ensuring an outstanding start to the history of Manea SC. The potential for a disrupted beginning at a brand new school is significant, but the commitment of our staff to being organised, resilient and focused on building positive relationships with each other and our students, has resulted in an excellent Term 1.

I have been impressed by the efforts of most students in adjusting to the high expectations MSC has of conduct and work ethic. The positive interactions between students and between students and staff have been a highlight of the Term.

I would also like to thank the efforts of the members of the College Board for their passion and enthusiasm in setting up the College strategic plan, vision and mission statements.

The College Open Day was extremely successful, with over 150 people coming through our doors to tour the College and its wonderful facilities. This has generated some significant interest in the College and future enrolments.

Our drive for enrolments for 2010 will commence during Term 2. We will offer an even larger selection of courses for our students next year. Please take the opportunity to spread the message about “Magnificent Manea”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Associate Principal, Craig Bourne, for the work he has done during Term 1 while Rod Rykers was on long service leave in Africa. Rod returns for the start of Term 2, while Craig heads to Bunbury Senior High School.

Craig has done a terrific job in leading the College during its commencement. Craig’s patience, leadership, enthusiasm, problem solving skills and sense of humour have made him a valued member of our staff. On behalf of the Manea SC community, I wish Craig the best of luck in his future ventures and thank him for his contribution to the College.

Our first Parent Evening, held on March 31st was well attended, with staff being fully booked for interviews on the night. The consistent feedback I received was how impressed parents were with the professionalism and quality of our teaching staff. This was very pleasing information to hear and I have communicated this back to our teachers.

If you were unable to attend the evening and would like to make an appointment to meet with teaching staff, please call the College to arrange this.
All parents should also have received an Interim Report detailing the progress of their son/daughter. Please contact the College if the Interim Report has not been passed on.

**COLLEGE CAPTAINS**

I was impressed by the leadership qualities of students applying for the positions of our first ever College Captains. All candidates presented a speech in front of the entire school, then were interviewed by a panel of students and staff. In addition, feedback on each candidate’s attendance and work ethic was obtained from teachers.

After this challenging and very competitive process, it gives me great pleasure to announce that our College Captains for 2009 are Aimee Harris and Ben Symons. Congratulations to Aimee and Ben, I am confident that they will represent the College with distinction.

**FEEDBACK WELCOME**

Manea Senior College recognises that parents/care givers are a crucial part of the team that supports our students as they strive for success. I value your opinion and involvement in the College and look forward to feedback, positive and otherwise, to ensure the College continues to progress and establishes itself as the leading Senior College in the state.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing Easter break and I look forward to seeing you again during Term 2.

Regards
Paul Mathews Principal
Paul.mathews@det.wa.edu.au

**YOU ARE INVITED TO BE PART OF A RESEARCH PROJECT!**

My name is David Hodgs and I am a PhD student doing research on the WA Raised School Leaving Age. The Raised School Leaving Age in WA has meant a big change for the school system, and I am seeking school students aged 16-17 who would like to be interviewed for this important research. I will ask you some questions about the sorts of education and/or work you are doing, and what it means for you to be in full-time education. The research is confidential and you won’t be identified in any publication from the research. The research is approved by Murdoch University Ethics Committee and the Department of Education and Training.

If you would like to know more, send me an email at d.hodgson@ecu.edu.au or ring 9780 7731 and I will send you an information letter and consent form for you and your parent/guardian to sign. Then, if you would like to be interviewed for this research, we can arrange a convenient time for me to come to Manea SC for the interview.

**TAFE - PD DAY**

There will be no TAFE on the 12th May due to a PD Day. TAFE students don’t have to attend on this day.

**ANZAC SERVICE**

Thursday 9th April 2009
11.50am – 12.35pm. The service will be held on the grass area in front of the flags.

The College closes at 3.30pm this Thursday, there will be no study period.

**COLLEGE CHARGES**

Thank you to those families that have paid their College Charges for 2009. If you have not already paid your account please arrange to make a payment at the Office as early as possible in Term 2. Just a reminder to families that are entitled to the Secondary Assistance Program, applications close on Thursday 9/4/2009. Please contact Yvette Moulsdale on 97210600 if you have any queries regarding the Charges or any subsidies available.

**SMS COMMUNICATION**

We are pleased to advise that Manea Senior College is implementing a mobile phone messaging system to communicate student unexplained absences to parents/guardians.
This new communication system uses Short Messaging Service (SMS) and will send text messages to parent/guardian mobile phones when your child is absent from College (in the instance that an explanation has not already been provided).

Commencing April 29, each morning of the College day, our computer system will automatically send parents a message similar to:

**MSC records show Frank Smart is absent Mon 23/03/2009.**

**Pls reply SMS stu name/reason/abs date or call 9721 0600.**

SMS is designed to advise parents that according to College records, the student is absent and no reason has been provided to the College.

It is a legal requirement that parents contact the College regarding any student absences or reasons for lateness. If an explanation for the absence has been provided prior to 11.30 am each morning, then parents will not receive an SMS.

Parents need to be aware that this system is an additional absence follow up service only. There will be times when parents may not receive a text message due to technical issues. In cases where you are concerned about your child’s attendance, please contact the College directly on 9721 0600.

Once absence notification messages have been implemented, the use of SMS communications may be extended to wider uses such as unexpected College closures or a reminder about a College event.

It is expected that the use of SMS communication to parents will assist in reducing the number of unexplained student absences and help inform the College and parents as to the whereabouts of every student. The SMS strategy is already being used across many WA schools as a successful initiative to improve communication to parents and to encourage students to take responsibility for their attendance at College.

Further enquiries should be directed to College administration on 9721 0600.

---

**FROM THE ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL**

As the Term comes to an end, so does my time at Manea SC. It has been fantastic to watch a small group of students and staff grow and transform into a very focused group. The culture that is establishing at this College will be the envy of other schools and I am sure that in a short time we will be praising how well our students have performed both academically and within the community.

The way the student’s are embracing the ‘young adult ethos’ of the College has been a real highlight for me. It is evident that they will respond accordingly to the way they are treated and by having high expectations we are achieving high standards.

I would like to thank all the students, staff and parents for the support in my role as Associate Principal and I would like to wish everyone good luck for the future.

Thanks

Craig Bourne
Associate Principal

Wishing you all a safe and Happy Easter.