Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,

We have come to the end of another term. Teachers are currently in the process of finalising their term reports. Students’ term reports will be posted to parents in the first week of the term break.

We have moved our parent-teacher interviews to the second week of term 4, because of Ramadan. This will be the last parent-teacher interview for this year; therefore, it is very important that our parents come and discuss their child’s progress with their teachers.

Our Pastoral Care department and Parents & Friends Association have organised parent Iftars for each year level. It is very pleasing to see that lots of our parents are attending and enjoying the night with their child and our Pastoral Care Teachers.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Best wishes,
Mr. M. Koca

Pro-Vice Chancellor of Australian Catholic University Visits Isik College

On Monday 3 September, Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) from Australian Catholic University visited as part of the continuing Values Education Guest Speakers Programme.

Professor McMullen addressed Year 9 and 10 students about the significance of values and, in doing so, considered three key questions regarding the fundamental values that have guided her life, the reasons why they are so important, and whether or not they are shared by others.

Identifying the fundamental values as truth, freedom, justice and love, Professor McMullen explained why these are relevant in contemporary society.

“If I put them into practice as a truthful person, a person who seeks freedom for others, one who is committed to justice and who loves her fellow humans, irrespective of their colour, race, religion or place in society, then I contribute to a more dignified and truly human life for the people around me in my sphere of Australian society.”

In discussing freedom, she drew attention to the point that freedom cannot be absolute, that is, without limits, stating that freedom “means we are free to do the following within the common good and the public order and in a responsible manner.”

“But there is a very important ‘other side’ to freedom. We must be free as part of our dignity as humans who possess the “spark of the divine” to refuse what is morally wrong, no matter how attractively it is presented. All of us must be free to say “No” to drugs in society, to violence against one another, to endangering our own or others’ lives by speeding, by not looking after ourselves, by failing to have a work-life balance and so on,” she stated.

Values are not just ideas that we have about ourselves and the relationship with others and the world around us, they need to be translated into action. Professor McMullen concluded her presentation commenting on how we can go about living out these four fundamental values in our daily lives.

“The secret is to live our lives in a spirit of service or to show to all we meet a servant spirit.

“What a wonderful example was set by Mustafa Cagrici, the Grand Mufti of Istanbul, at the historic Blue Mosque, when last November he invited Benedict XVI, the Catholic pope, to pray with him there for peace and understanding that all of us from our different traditions would embrace these fundamental values of truth, freedom, justice and love.”

C O L L E G E

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Friday 21st September
End of Term 3
Year 7-10 Values education performance period 6&7.

Monday 8th October
Curriculum Day

Tuesday 9th October
Students begin classes for term 3

Friday 12th October
Eid ul Fitr Holiday

Mon 15th - Tues 16th October
Parent teacher interviews

Wed 17th - Fri 19th October
Year 8 Camp

This exhibition is a part of Celebrating 40 years of the Turkish Community in Melbourne. Several students from Isik College will be participating in this exhibition. The opening will be held at Darebin Arts Centre, Corner Bell St. and St. George's Rd. Preston at 2pm. The work will be on display for 12 days.
Year 11 Shakespeare Experience.

On Friday 7 September, Year 11 English students went to see the Melbourne Theatre Company’s production of William Shakespeare’s Macbeth.

Students had the opportunity to watch key scenes of the play being performed and heard commentary by the actors and the director on the significance of these scenes to the three worlds of the play: the human world, the supernatural world and the internal world. By the end of the play, students had to decide which of these three worlds affected Macbeth the most, leading him to commit atrocious acts.

For most students, this was the first MTC production that they watched and their first time going to the Arts Centre. They were impressed with the quality of the acting and the splendour of the venue.

Ms. F. Cellik

Year 11 Biology Excursion

On Monday the 10th of September, the year 11 Biology students visited the Melbourne Zoo. They examined unusual skulls, met live animals and discovered Zoo’s herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. A perfect chance to study the different animals teeth, feeding strategies and dietary requirements. They learnt about the variety of techniques used for the breeding of captive animals, particularly endangered species.

Mrs. N. Serbetci

Literature Seminar

The VCE Literature students were very fortunate to attend a seminar presented by Mr. Terry Hayes, who for many years was an assessor for the literature examinations and continues to hold presentations for teachers and students.

Mr. Hayes discussed students’ exam text, Greek playwright Sophocles’ Antigone. The students thoroughly enjoyed the seminar and gained greater insight into the text and the expectations of a well-written analysis.

Mr. Hayes was as equally pleased with what the students had discussed throughout the seminar and later described our school as an “oasis of calm.”

A thank you to students and parents who assisted with catering for the day.

Ms. Tulay Et
VCE Literature Teacher.

Tips for dealing with Stress.

1. Put off the big decisions
If you are feeling stressed, it’s probably not the best time for you to be making major changes in your life, such as giving up on study or dropping subjects, leaving home or quitting your job.

2. Sort out relationship problems
Stress in relationships – whether this is with a partner, friends, your teachers, parents or other important people in your life – is a major cause of depression. You might want to talk to a counselor or someone who can help you work things out.

3. Take time out
Don’t spend too much time worrying about things that are stressing you out. Take some time out to do something distracting or something you enjoy, such as going out with friends, going to the gym or yoga class, listening to music, playing sports or watching movies.

4. Keep things balanced
Learn to say “no” more often. Don’t feel you have to take on unnecessary new things that will add to your to-do list, or your stress levels. Avoid studying till late at night. Avoid taking on extra responsibilities. Organise your time so your homework and assignments are not left to the last minute. Make sure you have a balance in your day between work and doing things you enjoy.

5. Exercise
Doing a physical activity, such as swimming, walking, yoga, cycling, dancing or going to the gym can help reduce the tension in your muscles and your mind. Try to do some exercises everyday, even if it’s just walking around the block.

6. Seek Help
Talking to a friend about how you’re feeling might help you work out what’s causing your stress and how to deal with it. Talking to your doctor, a counselor or someone else you trust can also help. They may be able to give you some other tips to help you reduce your stress.

SRC News

A squirt of syrup, a scoop of ice-cream and plenty of milk, makes a delicious milkshake.

The students of Isik College are buzzing with fundraising ideas and events for the past two weeks, raising money for the scholarship of the students they have been introduced to from the Philippines. The girls have shown so much compassion and generosity which has been heartwarming to witness. Selling milkshakes, barbecues, massages, sing-along movie sessions are just a few of the events. Well done girls!

Mrs. N. Serbetci

Gathering to discuss our observations with our friendly guide, Shelly.