



### *A message from our Principal, Helen Ginnivan*

Staff met students as they arrived at school on Monday and I watched the engagement and conversations that students were having with the adults in the Nathalia SC community. It was a real testament to how we put into practice what we say: relationships matter.

The students returned to classrooms that had a teacher in front of them, students used pens not screens, talking took place, students engaged with their learning. Teachers are so happy to have their students back in classrooms.

Mr Robinson has spent time in each class going over SWPB, expectations and a tour of the new building. Students were all given a school hat which must be worn in Term 4. School has routines and our students have quickly settled back into these. Year 7 – 10 students start the day with reading.

Reading every day has been shown to improve our students' literacy outcomes. Students can read a fiction or non-fiction book and not only do they read, but they should be visualising, making connections, predicting and confirming, questioning and considering the organisation of the written and visual material. This week, students have had a story read to them by staff. One of my favourite stories I like to read to students is, "Oh the places we will go", Dr Suess. I love this story as it says you have permission to dream, but you also have responsibility for the journey you take.



15<sup>TH</sup> October, 2020  
Term 4

The Year 12 students had lunch together yesterday and Mrs Leslie and I addressed the student's acknowledging this has been challenging and a number of milestone events have been missed. This will include the end of year assembly. Students accepted that this has to happen. We will have a small celebration on 29<sup>th</sup> October for their last day.

A small number of students will be doing VCE exams. To prepare, students are sitting practice exams this week and will do another round of practice exams in two weeks. This is an intense time for these students and I know they will be striving to do their best.

The Wellbeing Team organised welcome back packs for all Year 11 and 12 students these packs had messages of encouragement for each student. Students have appreciated these.

I hope students take on board the advice that 'just because the past did not turn out like you wanted it to, this doesn't mean the future can't be better than you ever imagined'.

The government still has rules in place about what can happen in school and we are working within these. At present, we are assessing if camps can go ahead; Year 8 to Lorne, Year 9 Advance Camp and Year 9 Alpine School Camp. Announcements have also been made regarding:

- investment in individualised support for student learning and
- additional tutors to be employed to ensure every student has the support they need to catch up on learning.

I am looking forward to more detail on these.

**THANK YOU TO EVERY FAMILY WHO HAS WORKED TO SUPPORT STUDENTS DURING REMOTE LEARNING. Your efforts have been appreciated by me and the staff.**

## CARING

When students returned we had the long awaited new building in place. This meant a new foods room, office and toilets. Ms Twigg opened the foods room on Monday for students to come in and look around, they also got to sample a sweet treat.

I was impressed with how students were supporting each other, reminding which classes they had, where to find the new toilets and caring for each other.

## LEARNING

Last week Year 7 – 10 students engaged with 'Adventurous and Curious Minds week'. This gave students an opportunity to select what they wanted to explore and spend time on this. Students had an amazing selection of activities from entering items in the Nathalia SC virtual show, exploring art, computer and music activities, writing poems, taking virtual trips to zoos to looking for bugs in their backyard. These activities allowed students to demonstrate creative and critical thinking, ethical and personal capabilities.

## EXCELLENCE

The attendance rate on Monday was 95%. Well done, keep this up. School is the best place to be from 8.50am – 3.20pm, Monday to Friday.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Our vision is: *to inspire successful and passionate learners.* I wonder if students see the big picture and

and how their mindset, attitude and effort all contribute to their story. They have the capacity to make choices and need to be accountable for these. Dream big and don't be afraid of hard work.

## Respect

Following the rules.

Be in uniform, wear a mask, have your own drink bottle, stay home if sick. Hand in your mobile phone. Wear a hat. Do what you are asked. Take pride in your work.

Helen Ginnivan

Principal

## Calendar Events



Oct	12-15th	VCE Practice exam
	22nd	Immunisations
	23rd	<b>Grand final public holiday</b>
	26-29th	Practice exams
	29th	Last day of classes for Year 12
Nov	2nd	<b>Pupil free day</b>
	3rd	<b>Melbourne Cup Day—No students</b>
	10-27th	Year 12 Exams
	16-19th	Year 11 Exams
	20th	<b>No Year 11 Students</b>
	23-26th	Year 8 Camp
	27th	<b>Report Writing Day—No students</b>
Dec	4th	Last day of school for Yr 10 & Yr 11
	11th	7-9 Last day of normal classes
	14-15th	Activities Days
	16th	Yarrawonga Picnic Day—reports handed out
Jan	28th	Term 1, 2021 - students return

## **YAHOO, SCHOOL'S BACK!**

Monday morning arrived and I am not sure who was more excited, the students or the staff. School is back!

A large 'Welcome Back' sign was placed at the front of the school and as staff and students began to arrive, it was evident that everyone had missed the place!

So many positive comments were heard around the school including:

*How nice it is to be able to see friends and being able to see teachers in person.*

*Great to be allowed to leave the house to come to school.*

*Having normal school work and being able to do it at school, in a classroom.*

*Foods class and making food.*

*Art class so I can draw a lot more.*

*Fun activities at school.*

*Bus travel is also fun.*

*Writing with a pen, instead of typing!*

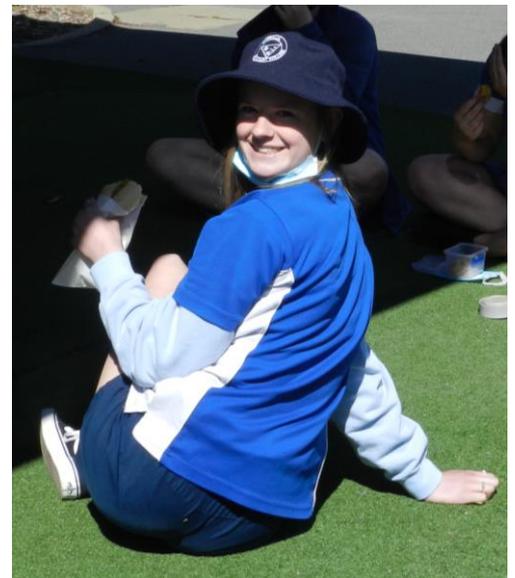
*I missed English and Humanities, even though we did this online, it is better in person.*

*Missed my favourite teachers.*

*The socialising aspect was what I missed the most.*

*It is lonely at home without my friends.*

*Just happy to be back and to feel that things are normal.*



# Tuning into Teens™ at headspace

## EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT PARENTING

Parenting can be a challenge at times  
so would you like to learn how to:

- Understand what they're going through at this stage in life?
- Understand their emotions?
- Manage conflict more effectively?
- Communicate more effectively?
- Create a closer more connected relationship?
- Build on your skills as a parent?

A FREE six session  
parenting program for  
parents and carers of  
young people



**headspace**

National Youth Mental Health Foundation