Rochester Secondary College
PO Box 186, Edward Street
ROCHESTER  3561
Ph:  03 5484 1844
Fax:  03 5484 2348
Email: rochester.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

Rochester Secondary College

Year 6 to Year 7
Transition Book
2012—2013
Introduction

All staff at Rochester Secondary College are very proud of our good reputation in the local community and surrounding district. We are determined to maintain and build on that record by continuing to provide a safe, stable, comfortable and challenging environment for our young ones as they grow into adults. We also value the excellent relationships we have with our feeder schools and plan to strengthen those relationships.

We are a forward looking college, vibrant, innovative, focused on the needs of each individual student with a well deserved reputation for excellence in teaching and stability. The College has grown steadily with a current student population in Year 7—12 of 500 students. Rochester Secondary College is an ideal size offering a comprehensive curriculum and individual support to each student.

Our Year 7 students enter a school in which we realise that students perform their best when they are feeling safe and supported, but also where they are challenged to achieve their best. A key platform at Rochester Secondary College will always be good discipline, and the strong support provided in student wellbeing. Our peer support program provides Year 7 students with a year 11 mentor to enhance their transition to secondary college. We provide a range of lunchtime activities for Year 7 particularly in Term 1 to ensure that all our students enjoy their new environment. All Year 7 students experience a core program of studies to ensure a sound foundation. Students study in eight learning areas with extra curricula activities in public speaking, debating and the annual music production. All Year 7 students will have access to a very broad range of I.T. resources in 2013. Decisions about personal/take home netbooks are yet to be finalized for 2013 as we take the time to fully review our 2012 progress. Suffice to say that we have four updated computer labs and many lap tops on trolleys.

The college has a history of high student achievement measured by high VCE scores, high rates of VCE completion, strong student retention and excellent literacy and numeracy results. Our college boasts a sporting record that stamps us as high sporting achievers with our teams frequently reaching zone and state level competitions. We are justifiably proud of this record.

Our light, bright well maintained and equipped buildings and grounds always impress visitors to our college. All rooms are air conditioned and centrally heated and our spacious grounds and gardens provide a pleasant outdoor environment. We recently completed the construction of an outdoor court area with basketball, netball and tennis courts and have upgraded our CVCC kitchen and foyer area.

Please feel welcome to visit our college on our information evening or at any time by phoning the college to arrange a tour. You will be impressed by the way our college operates a sense of order, support and engagement. Also please feel free to contact myself, the Year 7 Level Manager, Mrs. Bolitho or you may direct enquiries through the general office.

Bernie Altmann
College Principal
Principal : Mr. B. Altmann
Assistant Principal : Mr. B. Watson
Student Welfare Coordinator : Mrs. J. White
Year 7 / Transition Coordinator : Mrs. A. Bolitho
Careers Coordinator : Mr. C. Huddy

Telephone : 03 5484 1844
Fax : 03 5484 2348

Year 6 to 7 Transition

May 2012 - Prospective Students Information Evening

July/August 2012 - Visits to Outer Primary Schools.
- Familiarisation Sessions - Rochester Secondary College.

December 2012 - Orientation Day - Rochester Secondary College.
For students who have selected Rochester Secondary College to pursue their Secondary education

February 2013 - Parent Information Evening.
- Year 7 Orientation Camp.
Rochester Secondary College’s dedicated Transition Team.

Mr. Bernie Altmann (Principal)

Mr. Bruce Watson (Assistant Principal)

Mrs. Barbara McCarty, Mrs. Annette Bolitho, Ms. Shelley Nichol and Mrs. Kate Taylor (Humanities Teachers)
Our Start to Year 7

Some comments from the students:

“High School is nothing like I imagined! All of the movies and books I have seen and read are now just like a whole new world . . . I thought that the work would be really hard but it smoothly ups your learning.”
- Maddi Adams 7B

“The first day of high school is pretty scary but it is not very scary after that and your Peer Support group will help you with school.”
Jeremy Holmberg 7B

“Rochester Secondary College has been a great experience so far. I also like the variety of subjects and having different teachers.”
Adam Hamilton 7B

“High school is really fun. I was scared at the start but the teachers help you if you need and I made heaps of new friends. I love high school.”
Sami Arnold 7B

“High school is awesome!! The work is sometimes hard but it’s fun. The teachers make things really interesting.”
Kathryn Northill 7B

Year 7 Camp – Weekaway

78 students attended ‘Weekaway’ near Lancefield. Our camp runs for three days and two nights and provides an excellent orientation and transition experience for the students.

Not only were students involved in activities such as canoeing, flying fox, archery, a ropes course and hut building, they were able to, in their mixed activity and duty groups, bond with other students and their year 7 teachers as well. The students really enjoyed their activities, the night walk and the food.

Our Year 7 students, as always, mixed well and behaved admirably. The Year 7 Camp was again an orientation and transition success.

“When we got to the canoes, Lyndon and I went in the same one and we played games. After that we got to capsize. That was really fun.”
Riley Wachter

“Two of the boys built their hut inside a log, so Mr. Millard poured the water in at both ends. It was really funny.”
Caitlin Allman

“We had lasagna and ice cream. It was awesome.”
- April Crouch

“I am starting to get sad because this camp is ending!”
- Maddi Adams
Year 7 at Rochester Secondary College

When you attend Rochester Secondary College in 2013 you will be allocated to a form (home group) of approximately 20—25 students. Year 7 classes are of mixed ability and gender balanced.

Each home group has a teacher who has the general responsibility for the welfare of each student in that group.

A very special feature of our Year 7 Program is that you will be taught Humanities by your home group teacher for nearly one third of the school week. This has been shown to be most important in your successful transition from Primary School to Secondary School and ensures that you have teachers who are able to get to know you well and who are better able to respond to your needs.

The features of the Year 7 to 8 program will include:

- A stimulating and challenging environment that will enable all students to experience success and to achieve significant learning outcomes.
- A supportive transition from primary to secondary schooling.
- Literacy and numeracy that is fundamental to all, and across all key learning areas.
- Curriculum that engages the students through a variety of approaches including integrated themes, table teams, negotiated tasks and independent learning.
- Skill development for adolescence.
- Leadership programs.
- All Year 7 students will have access to a very broad range of I.T. resources in 2013. Decisions about personal/take home netbooks are yet to be finalized for 2013 as we take the time to fully review our 2011 trial.

Year 7 Orientation Camp

Each year our Year 7 Orientation Camp provides a great opportunity for students to mix in a relaxed setting and to start building new relationships with peers from different primary schools. The camp also plays a very important role in building strong links between students and their teachers.

The camp involves an activities program for students based outdoors. All activities are designed to enable students to get to know their classmates and teachers better and is seen as most important in helping students adjust to their new Secondary School.

Peer Support Program

The main aim of the Peer Support Program is to help the Year 7 students settle into secondary school and give them support. Because the program is run by trained Year 11 students it enables closer relationships to develop among students as well as fostering the development of better self esteem. Year 7 students have the chance to obtain support and advice from older students both within the timetabled sessions and also on an informal basis due to the relationships which develop as a result of the program.

Teacher Aides

The College offers support through the provision of Teacher Aides working in the classrooms with teachers to support students who are experiencing difficulties with their literacy and numeracy skills.

Senior students are also available to tutor students who are having difficulty in literacy and numeracy.
**Subjects for Year Seven Students**

**Humanities**

Humanities will be a very important subject for Year 7’s next year. Humanities classes are for eight periods per week and are a combination of English, History and Geography. This subject will be taken by your Form Teacher and the Form Teachers of the other Year 7 classes. These teachers will get to know you well and help you adjust to your new school.

Humanities enables the teachers to recognise the different abilities of students quickly and to allow for students’ needs to be catered for far better.

**Science**

The Junior Science Course is a general course available to all students and introduces them carefully to the wide subject of Science which will later allow them to specialise in the areas of Chemistry, Physics and Biology should they wish.

Students will develop skills in relation to Laboratory safety and responsibilities, science equipment and the correct use of scientific research skills will be developed through practical experiences in the Science classes.

Topics studied will include: Forces, Earth in Space, Separation of Mixtures, Habitats, Simple Machines and Earth Resources.

**Mathematics**

New technologies including calculators and computers are profoundly changing the mathematical skills young people need. As a result of this, more emphasis is placed on problem solving, applications to every-day life and group work.

Students are still required to know their tables, perhaps now more than ever. We build on number skills and other areas of mathematics developed in primary school, as well as an introduction to new topics which will be carried on to Year 8.

Students in Year 7 study and practise mathematical concepts, skills and procedures in the areas of Number, Space, Chance and Data, Algebra and Measurement. The use of technology such as spreadsheets, graphing software and calculators is integrated throughout the course.

**Information Technology and Communication**

In this subject students continue their development of computer skills making use of Microsoft Word for processing and Microsoft Excel for spreadsheet. Students also make use of the Internet, Clipart Libraries and CD Roms to investigate, design, produce and evaluate a variety of information. Students study basic Information Technology skills and the course is designed to give them practical experience in using computers for personal and school purposes.
Language Studies

Students will learn how to communicate in Indonesian so that they can read, write, listen to and speak about topics such as their likes and dislikes, activities, transport, school and foods. They will also learn about the culture and geography of Indonesia.

We also have an Indonesian Sister School but recent world events have forced us to postpone our student exchange visits to Indonesia for the time being. However, this year plans are well underway for a ten day educational and cultural experience to Malaysia.

Physical and Sports Education

With the Campaspe Valley Community Centre (C.V.C.C.) in the grounds of Rochester Secondary College, we are in a position to provide excellent indoor and outdoor physical education experiences for students. The Weights Room is used by the senior Physical Education classes as well as the Middle School Fitness class on a regular basis. Specialised equipment allows the staff to conduct laboratory sessions in a more controlled environment making the results more accurate and therefore meaningful to students.

Students in Year 7 participate in a physical activity program which focuses on human movement skills, physical fitness and safety. Physical and Sports Education targets major community sports, individual and team games such as:

- Softball
- Netball
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Football
- Cricket
- Swimming
- Gymnastics

Technology Studies

Technology in Year 7 and 8 is an integrated course that will cover three areas within the materials strand - wood, metal and fabrics. Over the two year period students will be introduced to various materials and equipment and will also develop a safe understanding and skill level associated with these materials.

Health and Foods

Health and Foods is designed to develop and improve students’ skills and knowledge in the areas of food preparation, safety, hygiene, nutrition and decision making. Students will also explore aspects of personal development, peers, relationships and values.

Visual Arts

Through a variety of art experiences, students will study the art elements by creating 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional art works. Students will investigate the art of other cultures through research and practical tasks, they will also look at the ways in which artworks communicate ideas and feelings.
**Careers**

Mr Huddy is currently the school’s Careers Teacher and he is available to counsel students individually on their choice of career, prerequisite subjects, career problems and other related areas. Parents are also welcome to seek advice from Mr Altmann.

The Careers Suite boasts the latest Computer Technology. The JAC (Job and Course Explorer) and JILL (Job and Courses Illustrated) systems both allow details of thousands of careers to be accessed at a touch.

The Career Education Program at our school has been identified as a ‘National Model’ for rural schools by a National Project of the Country Areas Project and the Country Education Project reporting to the Department of Education and Training.

Career Curriculum is integrated into junior level subjects and also the Middle School Unit Program.

Work Experience is organised locally for Year 10 students and Melbourne Work Experience is also arranged for interested Year 10 and 11 students.

**Student Representative Council (SRC)**

The role of the SRC is to provide a healthy medium through which students from all year levels can present and discuss their ideas, feelings and attitudes about their College. The SRC encourages student participation in all areas of College decision making and they assist with school functions such as Funday, School Socials, Fundraising etc. The SRC represents the students’ opinions and decides on the allocation of funds raised by the student body. An election is held for the position of SRC representatives, and nominated members come from each of the six year levels.

The SRC at Rochester Secondary College is one of the more active student bodies in the state.

**Parents’ Club**

The Parents’ Club of Rochester Secondary College is not a fundraising committee for the College but an integral support group of a successful secondary college.

Parents’ Club members form part of the College Curriculum Committee, Elmore Field Days Committee, Finance Committee and various sub-committees within the College. Monies raised by Parents’ Club are derived from a major raffle conducted on Funday, supplying a contingent of workers to the Elmore Field Days and the successful second-hand book sale. Monies raised are used to assist in the subsidising of costs to DECA and Year 11 Work Experience, supplying equipment for use by students throughout the College, providing scholarships to students annually and supporting the annual Production and Energy Breakthrough.

Parents’ Club, ably lead by Maree Macague, meet in the College Conference room on the 2nd Monday of every month and meetings are conducted in a friendly atmosphere with open discussion encouraged on issues raised by members present. With reports from the Principal and at times, staff members, Parents’ Club is kept well informed of events and changes occurring within the College.
Student Welfare Services

The welfare of students and their families is given high priority at Rochester Secondary College. Support structures within the College manifest themselves in a variety of forms. Our Student Welfare Coordinator is readily available to help any student who may require support or assistance in regard to their academic, personal and/or social development. The Student Welfare Coordinator acts as a vital link with parents/guardians who may wish to check on the progress of their child or to pass on relevant information. She is also a valuable resource to the College community, providing support and advice regarding Community agencies and resources.

Additional help provided by our Student Welfare Coordinator includes getting financial assistance, assisting in the solution of personal crises and organising extra help for students with their studies.

Organisation and Staff Availability

Whilst at the College the people most closely connected with students’ progress will be the Form Teacher and the Level Coordinator. These people should be the first point of contact for both parents and students who have concerns regarding student welfare or progress.

Staff are always available for parent interviews but this must be arranged through the General Office to ensure the least disruption to programs in the school whilst providing a service to parents.

Parent / Teacher Days and Nights

Two major sessions are held each year corresponding to the issue of mid-semester reports - all parents are encouraged to attend. Appointments of five minutes per teacher are made at the College to ensure that these sessions run effectively.

An Information Night is held early in the year for the parents of Year 7 students.

Homework

Regular school work outside the classroom is considered a valuable aspect of learning and contributes to the development of sound study habits. Students at Rochester Secondary College are assigned homework in all subjects on a regular basis. The amount of homework will vary according to age and the learning needs of each student. Parents will be informed if homework is neglected on a regular basis.

Students are required to maintain their learning diaries (available from the College) to ensure that they are highly organised in the use of non-class time. Homework achievements appear in the written reports which are distributed twice each semester.

School Diary

All students will be issued with a diary at the start of the year and it is an important tool for them. The diary allows students to organise themselves to meet deadlines and keep track of due dates. The diary also contains the ‘Out of Class Permission’ and ‘Late for Class’ sheets which students must have signed by their teachers should they be out of or late for class at any time.

Students arriving late to school should use their diary for parents to write a note explaining their absence and teachers may also use the diary to communicate with parents about students’ progress.
**Locker Security**

Students in Years 7 to 10 will be issued with a combination lock at the beginning of the school year and this must be affixed to the locker at all times. Students are encouraged to leave any valuables at the office for safekeeping during the day and are discouraged from leaving money in bags.

**Resources**

Rochester Secondary College completed an extensive building program several years ago which saw the whole school totally refurbished. One could safely say that the College is a show-piece and we are very proud of our school buildings. The College boasts a large modern library, spacious computer rooms and a range of well appointed rooms of a specialist and general nature. The whole school is air-conditioned, centrally heated and carpeted.

Rochester Secondary College has been further enhanced with the $1.3 million development of a new Technology Centre. Students have been using the new facility since the beginning of 2005.

The C.V.C.C. serves as our Sports Centre and Assembly Hall and is the venue for School Socials and the annual School Production.

**Performing Arts**

- **School Production**
  
  A feature of Rochester Secondary College is the biannual presentation of a Theatrical Production. All students are encouraged to participate on a voluntary basis. The Production last year was ‘OZ’ which was a highly entertaining event.

- **Theatresports**
  
  The College participates in a regional Theatresports competition where teams of students participate in short impromptu theatre events.

- **Debating and Public Speaking**
  
  Rochester Secondary College has built a strong reputation in both debating and Public Speaking. Students participate in many competitions ranging from local to state level competitions had have consistently achieved impressive results.

- **Instrumental Music Program**
  
  Rochester Secondary College provides instrumental music tuition in drums, guitar, bass guitar and keyboard. Four experienced music teachers provide half hour lessons in their specialist areas and students’ sessions are rostered on particular days.
**Uniforms**

Rochester Secondary College has a compulsory school uniform. ‘Summer’ and ‘Winter’ uniforms are available from a number of local retailers.

**Camps / Tours and Excursions**

Rochester Secondary College students are involved in an extensive program of excursions to broaden the educational experiences of the total school population.

Camps, Tours and Excursions are an integral part of the learning program of all levels of the school and the long-term operation of these activities reflect the excellent reputation that Rochester Secondary College students have gained in the past for their behaviour.

Some of the Camps include:

- Year 7 - Orientation Camp to Lancefield
- Year 8 - Anglesea Beach Camp
- Year 9/10 - Middle School Camps which can include Tasmania, Gold Coast, Skiing etc
- Year 11 - Pre Driver Education at Elmore and Melbourne based Work Experience
- Year 12 - Melbourne Information Trip
- Malaysia Trip - Students in Year 9-12 who study Indonesian

**Scholarships**

Rochester Secondary College prides itself on the extensive scholarship program available to students at all levels of the school. Scholarships are made available through the generous donations from local businesses and service clubs, the SRC, School Council and Parents’ Club.

**Houses**

The College has four sporting houses for the major house competitions each year of swimming and athletics. Students are allotted to one of the houses at the beginning of Year 7 for sport and they are - Burnewang, Campaspe, Restdown and Waranga.

**Student Code of Conduct**

A student ‘Code of Conduct’ is a feature of the College and it has been compiled with input from staff, student and parent representatives. The ‘Code of Conduct’ ensures that the management of student behaviour takes place within a clearly understood framework with students being both familiar with what is acceptable and with the consequences of continuing to behave unacceptably. We also concentrate on restoring any harm or hurt that has occurred.

The Assistant Principal is responsible for the discipline in the College, working closely with Class Teachers, Level Coordinators and parents.
Newsletter

A weekly newsletter is distributed to parents via the youngest student in a family. In 2005, the College introduced emailing the newsletter to parents, rather than distributing them to the students. The newsletter reports on items of interest as well as items of official correspondence such as school excursions, Parent/Teacher interviews and general school and community events. A regular feature of the newsletter is the ‘Important Dates’ section which lists upcoming events for the term.

Parents should expect the newsletter each Thursday. Community notices - sporting events, for sale etc are welcome and will be included for a small charge if space permits.

Bulletin

The bulletin is a daily list of important notices for students and staff and several of these are placed around the school for students to read before school. The bulletin is an important document as it contains room changes, meetings, special class requirements and yard duties.

The School Day

The school day begins at 9.00am and ends at 3.30pm. Recess commences at 10.40am for twenty minutes and the lunch break commences at 12.50pm for one hour. The school day consists of six by fifty minute periods with an overall week of thirty periods.

Something a little different from Primary School is the number of teachers that you will have whilst at Rochester Secondary College. You may find that you have six teachers for the subjects that you take and that you will move from room to room depending upon which subject you have at the time. Your form teacher will ensure that you do not get lost.

Notes

Notes from parents are to be given to the General Office/Assistant Principal before the start of the school day for the following reasons:

- Lunch Passes - for students to leave school during the lunch break for important errands
- Street Passes - are necessary for all students. Permission will be granted on a daily basis if parents wish students to undertake errands in the Rochester township (this is not for lunch).
- Out of uniform notes

Curriculum

Year 7 Curriculum

All students in Year 7 will study the following subjects:

- Humanities - 8 periods per week
- Mathematics - 5 periods per week
- Science - 3 periods per week
- Physical Education / Sport - 4 periods per week
- LOTE - Indonesian - 3 periods per week
Semester length studies:
- Information Technology & Communication - 3 periods per week
- Visual Arts - 4 periods per week
- Integrated Technology - 4 periods per week
- Health and Food - 4 periods per week

Year 8 Curriculum
- English - 5 periods per week
- Mathematics - 4 periods per week
- SOSE History & Geography - 4 periods per week
- Physical Education / Sport - 4 periods per week
- Science - 3 periods per week
- LOTE Indonesian - 3 periods per week

Semester length studies:
- Arts - 4 periods per week
- Integrated Technology - 4 periods per week
- Information Technology & Communication - 3 periods per week
- Health and Foods - 3 periods per week

Years 9 and 10 - Middle School Unit Program
All Year 9 and 10 students study a compulsory core of Mathematics, English and Science in Year 9. Year 9 students also complete a compulsory semester of Geography, History, Physical Education and Commerce. Year 10 students undertake a compulsory semester of Commerce/Careers and then select Elective units from the remainder of the courses. This caters for students’ career choices, subject preferences and individual preferences.

Subjects from which Year 11 and 12 Students Select

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Technology Design and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Mathematics</td>
<td>Studio Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Communication</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Mathematics</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist Mathematics</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical Methods</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>Materials and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Health &amp; Human Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The VCE/VET and VCAL

Rochester Secondary College has an enviable record of success when it comes to the performance of its VCE students. We have for many years enjoyed stunning pass rates and our students have gained entry into many different courses and jobs. The Tertiary Entrance Rankings gained by our students have been consistently above State average and we expect that this will be the case well into the future.

Former students are currently studying at major universities such as Melbourne, Monash, La Trobe and RMIT in fields such as Medicine, Law, Commerce, Physical Education and Human Movement, Agriculture and Teaching just to mention a few.

Rochester Secondary College provides a variety of courses to cater for the different needs and aspirations of our students and parents. In recent years we have provided access to Vocational Education and Training Certificates and now have a large number of our post-compulsory students studying VET certificates in over 11 areas. The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning has also be run successfully in our school. This course also has a strong vocational focus and allows our students to stay at school while working in industry and business and thus gaining valuable experience and skills. We support these programs through an excellent Counselling and Career advice program to assist students and parents in making informed choices in Year 9 through to Year 12 and beyond.

We encourage our Year 10 students to consider the possibility of undertaking one VCE or VET subject as part of their Year 10 program so as to improve their learning skills and to enhance their ENTER score. We provide a wide variety of the traditional VCE Unit 1, 2, 3 and 4 courses and our Year 10 program provides easy access to VCE subjects for Year 10 students.

As mentioned earlier, the College provides access to a range of VET (Vocational Education and Training) programs at Certificate II and Certificate III level involving Structured Work Placement and Apprenticeship skill certification in the current courses: Hospitality, Business, Furnishings, Equine Industry, Music Industry, Engineering, Automotive, Sport & Recreation, Community Services and Information Technology. In addition we negotiate adjustments to courses for students who are interested in undertaking School Based New Apprenticeships which often involve one day of Workplace training, one day at TAFE and three days at Rochester Secondary College.

In conclusion we have for many years enjoyed stunning VCE pass rates and our students have gained entry into many different courses and a wide variety of jobs of their choice.

During their senior year students can expect to participate in a variety of exciting activities that include the following:

Rochester Driver Education Complex (RODEC) in Elmore

The Driver Training Program is a week long session conducted entirely at RODEC in Elmore involving hands-on experience on the RODEC track combined with theoretical instruction and videos.

Students are allocated to a team of four with one supervisor who takes them from the basic driving level through to an advanced level in current model, manual cars. This will include night driving and how to deal with emergency driving situations. The purpose of the RODEC program is to properly educate our young people to use our roads safely.
**Work Experience**

Each year the Year 11 Curriculum includes a Work Experience component. The bulk of the students will work in Melbourne and stay as a group at The Claremont Hotel.

Our Pathways Manager, Mr Huddy, has in the past been able to organise some outstanding placements for students in areas of interest or career aspirations.

**Year 12 Melbourne Trip**

The Year 12 Melbourne Trip has been identified as a most valuable part of the curriculum. The aim of the trip is to familiarise students with Tertiary Colleges, look at accommodation options and to participate in a variety of experiences that will assist their preparation for exams. This year the students will visit several universities (for orientation and/or subject specific activities) as well as other points of interest:

- La Trobe University
- Melbourne Museum
- Carlton & United Breweries
- Melbourne University
- RMIT
- Baker IDI
- ACMI Centre (for three activities)
- Australian Catholic University
- National Gallery of Victoria

**Reports**

Rochester Secondary College has adopted the new student report cards. These reports will provide clear information about your child’s strengths and weaknesses. Using a common reporting scale, A—E, the reports will tell you how your child is progressing against expected standards.

Areas of Rochester Secondary College reports will focus on:

- Student achievement
- Student work habits
- Areas for improvement and suggestions for future learning
- The student’s personal learning goals along with suggested strategies to achieve these goals

The reports aim to improve partnerships between home and school as well as involve students in a meaningful way in the reporting process.
Duke of Edinburgh:

Rochester Secondary College strives to offer opportunities for its students to participate in a range of activities that stimulate and enhance skills and interests. For these reasons, it was decided to offer the Duke of Edinburgh’s Bronze Award to year nine students.

The aim of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, ‘Dukes’ for short, is to be a flexible, interesting and fun-packed program for young people between the ages of 14 and 25. It is entirely voluntary and is structured so the participants can design their own unique program centered around their interests and passions.

The Award is available to everyone regardless of gender, cultural background, academic or physical ability. Currently, the Award has a presence in over 120 countries.

The response to this new initiative has been fantastic. Currently there are twenty year nine students completing their Bronze Award. Award participants are required to address criteria related to skill, service, physical recreation and adventurous journeys. Students meet regularly on a Thursday after school with Award coordinators Mrs. Ros Thomas and Miss. Jenna Oliver to participate in fun activities, community initiatives and gain assistance and direction with their Award requirements.