Balancing school and work

I was reflecting recently about the challenges faced by our senior students in managing a balance between their studies and part time work. It is almost a rite of passage in these times that young people have a part time job whilst completing school. There are many valuable things to be gained from this experience, including making some money, developing an understanding of workplace practices and expectations and developing skills that can be valuable in later job seeking efforts. There are, however, great pressures faced by high school students attempting to excel in their studies, participate in sporting and recreational activities and maintain an active social life and manage part time work.

The proportion of school students in employment has increased significantly in the past two decades. Australia is among a small group of OECD countries with relatively high levels of students combining school and work (others include the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Denmark). Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data indicates that the proportion of all school students in employment for one hour or more per week increased from 25 per cent in 1986 to 37 per cent in 2007. Females are more likely to combine school and work than males. The overall proportion of students working increases with school year level although a slightly smaller percentage of Year 12 female students work than Year 11 female students.

A 2009 federal parliamentary report examined the impact of competing demands on young people’s lives. Whilst perhaps time has moved on a little, the fundamental issues remain the same. Students who find the right balance are not only rewarded with a range of social and economic benefits, but their chances of a successful transition into further education, training or work are significantly enhanced. However, achieving the right balance can be highly problematic for some young people. This is because the nature of part-time work for school students has changed significantly. The extended trading hours in the retail sector and late night trading in the fast-food industry have contributed to students working longer hours and later hours than ever before and being vulnerable to exploitation. With the increase in the minimum school leaving age and the expectation that increasingly, all students finish their formal schooling at the end of Year 12, more young people experience the challenges and pressures of dealing with senior curriculum and balancing this against part time work commitments.

These competing demands are things that affect Marsden students. As parents, as a community and as a school we must all contribute to guiding and supporting our young people to maximize the benefits and minimize the drawbacks.

Gus Vrolyk
Principal
Deputy Principal's Report

Marsden has enjoyed a very close relationship with Macquarie University over many years through a number of mutually beneficial programs.

Macquarie University run Summer Schools during their summer break to teach English to teachers from other countries. Marsden High School is the school of choice for Macquarie University to host groups of these teachers so they can see an Australian school in action. The feedback from the teachers has been incredibly positive about the learning that is happening in the classroom. The most common question we are asked is “How can I get my child/niece/nephew into Marsden High School”?

Thank you to the teachers who have given so generously of their time to explain their exemplary classroom practices to these teachers. Special thanks to Ms Mo, Ms Mathew, Ms Rose, Mr Fowler, Ms Barui, Ms Idrus, Mr Leece, Mr Kelly, Ms Paris, Mr Sarroff and Ms Samuel.

Year 12 have less than 3 weeks until their half yearly exams begin.

I would suggest that all students should currently be spending between 3-5 hours a night studying for these very important exams. Why the 3-5 hours? The number of hours you will need to spend each night will depend on what you are planning to do in 2015. If you haven’t already had an interview with Mrs Hart, The Careers Adviser, then NOW is the time.

There are certain questions you need to be able to answer at this point…

1. What career am I aiming for?
2. What course do I need to do next year to get into that career?
3. Is university or TAFE the best place to study for that career?
4. Do I need an ATAR or are there other entry criteria?
5. Do I need to build in some work experience this year?

For most people it is easier to study if you know WHY you are studying.

Year 11

I have been very impressed by the way in which Year 11 have buckled down to their senior study. Teachers and students alike have commented to me about the dedication of the majority of our students.

I would like to remind all Year 11 and Year 12 students about the Senior Learning Centre in the library. The upstairs section of the library is dedicated to senior students so that they can use the resources of the library for quiet study. All students must observe the library rules. This is a very important resource and especially crucial in the lead up to exams.

Sheryn Symons
Deputy Principal

Marsden High School P&C

A reminder that the P&C meeting is held in the Library at 7:30pm on the last Tuesday of each month and all parents/carers would be most welcome to attend. The next meeting will be on the 25th March and will include the Annual General Meeting. All positions will be vacated, thus nominations are invited for President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Help is urgently needed in the canteen, with at least three more people required. The normal hours are 10am to 2:30pm but any help would be much appreciated, even if only for a couple of hours. The busiest time is 12:15 - 2:15 where lunch is prepared and served. Please contact Rae on 0421 458 890 or the canteen direct on 9858 1367 If you can help.

Many thanks, Karen

Community News

Free Seminar - Parent survival strategies for teaching young drivers on Monday 17 March 2014 6pm for 6.30pm toll 8.30pm Level 3 Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers, 818 Pacific Highway, Gordon

The Golden Kangaroos (Hornsby Concert Band). For more information visit www.gks.org.au or contact the band at membership@goldenkangaroos.org.au or on 9868 3289


Understanding Your Teenager Parent Forums. More information KYDS 9416 9824 or www.kyds.org.au
Sister School Program 2014
14 Year 9 Korean girls and 2 teachers from Hanol Middle School, our sister school in Korea, visited Marsden High School from February 17th to 24th. The sister school program started in 2012 and 54 Korean students and 6 teachers have visited us to date. The Korean students had a wonderful time at Marsden doing a lot of activities such as attending classes with their buddies, having ESL classes including a class of making boomerangs, performing at the welcome assembly and much more. A huge thank you to all Year 10 Marsden buddies and Staff, especially Ms Symons, Ms Larsen, Mr Hannah and Mr Fowler. Ms Joo Yoon Lee (Languages teacher)

Well done and thank you to Ms Lee for her incredible organisation and care of the students from Hanol over the 8 day visit, as well as all the preparation that took place well before the visit.

Ms Lee organised the itinerary, ESL teaching, daily activities for the students and for the Korean teachers, the assembly (including playing piano for her sister), buddies, food, gifts, presentations, certificates, transport and so much more.

Ms Lee is a fabulous asset to our school.

Sheryn Symons DP

Johnson & Johnson
The Johnson & Johnson program is a great opportunity to do better in the future and to have more opportunities in life. You get your own mentor to help you with school and decision making with choosing a career. All the effort that the teachers and Johnson & Johnson are putting is just amazing. I was so happy to be able to be a part of this program and be able to go to the launch night for Johnson & Johnson because I learned even more about it. I am excited to meet my mentor and to communicate and interact with the people at Johnson & Johnson.

Jake Gugliotta, Year 10

The Launch of the J&J Program
The launch of the project was a great success. At first, I was interested in the J&J program, and was looking forward to it. After the launch, it has made me even more excited. There are mentors in the J&J program to help us realise what jobs we would like to take and also help students with their resumes. This provides all of us participants an opportunity to step closer to our dreams. I am proud to be involved in the J&J program because Marsden High School is the only school to be chosen in Australia. I feel very lucky to be one of the students in this program that no one else in Australia will have.

By Kaye Chen, Year 10