Term 3 ended with the Thailand trip which was a huge success. Following on our theme of ‘setting standards’, the trip went a long way towards teaching us how standards vary around the world. While living standards are low in Thailand, the work ethic is high. This is because in Thailand there is no ‘fall back’ position. The government does not pay for you to be unemployed, nor does it support you if you can’t support yourself. For this reason the unemployment rate in Thailand is about 0.3% of 66 million people. In Australia however our unemployment rate is close to 6%.

This figure often makes me think... ‘How is it, that in Australia where there is such an abundance of opportunity for work and wealth do we have almost 20 times the unemployment rate of a semi third world country like Thailand?’ There are many answers to this question, but in the end they all come down to expectations and standards. In Australia we have very high expectations of employment and conditions, but quite mediocre expectations of accountability and productivity of our work. In Thailand it is the other way around. Many Thai’s have no expectation of their employer, if indeed they are lucky enough to have one. They do however, have very high expectations of their work ethic.

I watched one guy who collected plastic bottles and sold them to a recycler for a set amount according to the weight. Inside about every third bottle he popped a little stone before crushing the bottle. He saw me watching and smiled. ‘It make more weight’, he laughed. Two things occurred to me. One he spoke great English for a guy who scavenged through rubbish for a living. And two, he was doing nothing more than any Australian legal, accounting or management firm would do to increase their bottom line. He was creating his profit by spreading and hiding ‘his costs’ in the little folds of his business so as they would not be recognised by the consumer.

So before you judge the Thai guy, ask yourself why a parking fine costs more than a visit to the doctor; why the Victorian State government collects almost 4 billion dollars a year for stamp duty (and you don’t even get a stamp!) and why when you buy a pack of chips these days, the packet is huge, until you open it to discover, you paid more for air than you did for chips.

‘Long live the guy from Thailand,’ I say. At least he smiles when he gets caught!
South East Asia Trip

Students and staff alike have expressed that our latest camp to Thailand was the best camp we have run. This is testament to the maturity of the student body and the support from parents and means we can run camps that are challenging, fun and allow students to feel independent and take responsibility. Please see the Thailand Newsletter for further information about the trip and the online gallery on the website.

www.ce.edu.au

DECV

The Term 3 reports from DECV indicated a high level of work across the student body. Reports indicated that across the board consistency of work submission can be improved as this will allow students to keep on top of their work, build healthy work habits and get feedback from teachers.

Holiday and Term 4 Dates

- Tuesday 8th October: Term 4 Commences
- Monday 14th October: Exam Preparation commences for Yr 12 Students
- Wed 30th Oct - Fri 22nd Nov: Exams for Yr 12 Students
- Thursday 31st October: Halloween Day
- Monday 4th November: Pupil Free Day
- Tuesday 5th November: Melbourne Cup Day
- Mon 25th - Thurs 28th November: Road Trip
- Monday 2nd December: Golf Day
- Wednesday 4th December: Photo Day
- Thursday 5th December: VCE Celebration Dinner
- Wednesday 11th December: Term 4 Concludes
- Thursday 12th December: Speech Evening

Student Achievements

Congratulations to Catherine Duong Thai who is currently competing in the Australian Junior Table Tennis Championships. She has won three of her singles matches and reached the second round of doubles but lost out to the Koreans. Reports are her team has been having great success overall.
Term 4

Term 4 is an important term for both continuing and completing students. This is an important time for students to decide on subjects and pathways. For many students they are faced with a world and opportunities that they have not prepared for and it is important that we work together as teachers, parents and a community to help them make the most informed decisions in this area. This is also our most social and fun Term. We will continue to run Game show. Road trip camp is a pivotal end to the year. We will also be holding our beach photo shoot, VCE Dinner, JCS Presentation and Awards ceremony and the first JCS Media Exhibition.

It is also important that students maintain a consistent approach to the term in preparation for the long summer holiday break. Attendance will therefore be a strong focus for the staff, students and parent body this term.

Exams

This year two of our year 12’s, Liam Adey and Erin Houghton will be sitting for exams.

The Exam Period starts on Wednesday 30th October

Obtained from:

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An Exam preparation session will be held on Tuesday 01 October. It is important that all ATAR seeking students attend this session.
Another tough day at the office!