In this newsletter I want to give you an overview of the new school’s curriculum. Rather than simply list subject offerings, let’s examine them in the context of the school’s philosophy.

From the fundamentals to higher-order learning. Our first responsibility is to give our students a firm grounding in literacy and numeracy. Strong emphasis will therefore be placed on maths, science, English and the humanities. But the fundamentals are just the starting point for a far broader range of subjects and higherorder learning.

Like the sciences. When it comes to science we have a great advantage – our specialist science facility. Our students will progress from basic science to the harder, university-entry-focused disciplines of physics and chemistry. We will keep science fun and interesting, including through experimentation and problem solving in areas like robotics and climate change.

We won’t forget the humanities. We will focus not just on history and geography but literature, poetry, philosophy and drama – reflecting our belief in the importance of the arts to forming well-rounded citizens. Our students will gain a deep understanding of historical and social issues.
Parlez-vous Français? Oui! We’ve decided to make French the school’s official second language. France has one of the world’s most admired cultures, and our community has the highest concentration of French speakers in Melbourne. Links with the Alliance Francaise de Melbourne will create a quality French language program. Our students will be expected to perform outside the classroom. We will be entering our students into state and national competitions, exposing them to high standards so they can set high standards of their own.

Our school won’t be into rote learning. We will challenge children to be creative and follow their intellectual passions. It’s the secret to keeping students interested and to getting good results at Year-12.

But it will be into technology. As an official Apple school, expect your children to carry their textbooks around in their iPad and even paint and compose music on it.

And modern vocational options. We will provide vocational subjects that reflect the passions and aspirations of our thriving inner-city community. Our aim is to find the leading film makers, designers and five-star chefs of tomorrow. We believe the best craftspeople bring to their trade the combination of their heads, their hearts and their hands.

High achievement won’t be confined to our selective stream. Our school will have a Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) Program to allow high potential students to learn at a faster rate and in greater depth. But if your child is not in SEAL don’t worry – high standards will be expected of every student, and it’s almost certain some of our highest achievers, including perhaps the School Dux, won’t even be in the program.

In the coming weeks I’ll be having more to say about our exciting ICT capabilities and giving you a look at our uniform.

Steve Cook, Foundation Principal

If you would like further information or to be included on our mailing list, please contact Tania Scaramozzino on scaramozzino.tania.s@edumail.vic.gov.au or 0408 367 359