Welcome back to school. I hope you had a restful break and are feeling energised and motivated for the year ahead.

If you haven’t read the Weekly Career News before, I encourage you to take 5 minutes each week to read it. The ‘News’ contains information about:

- Tertiary (e.g., university) and vocational (e.g., TAFE) courses and institutions
- Apprenticeships and traineeships
- Focus articles on courses and occupations, and
- Upcoming career events.

I also encourage you to focus on your career development this year. This will assist you to develop post school plans in terms of courses you may like study or occupations you may like to pursue. Career development activities may include:

- Attending tertiary and vocational institution open days
- Undertaking work experience
- Volunteering for a leadership position at school or in the community
- Undertaking community service
- Playing sport or engaging in hobbies
- Reading through university and TAFE course guides, and exploring the myfuture website
- Completing a vocational assessment
- Speaking to past students of the College who are studying, training or working in an area you are interested in (e.g., building, law).
- Meeting with me for a career counselling interview.

These are only a small number of examples. You develop career ideas through exposure to things like the media, speaking to people, engaging in any of the above and often you come up with career ideas through chance encounters. Reading the Weekly Career News will also assist you to develop career ideas. I hope you enjoy reading the weekly updates.

Applying for Medicine/ Dentistry/ Oral Health/ Optometry?

If are applying for any of these health science courses, you may need to sit the Undergraduate Medical Admissions Test (UMAT).

This is a three-part test that you sit in July 2016 and selected universities use your UMAT score as part of the selection process, in conjunction with your ATAR and in some cases an interview.

You will be tested on the following- logical reasoning and problem solving, understanding people and non verbal reasoning.

You will only have one chance to sit the UMAT this year- the test will be held Wednesday 27 July. You must be in Year 12 and you must register online to sit the test by 5pm 3 June.

It is important that you start to prepare for the test early. There are several private companies who offer commercial preparation programs – [www.nie.edu.au](http://www.nie.edu.au/) and [www.medentry.edu.au](http://www.medentry.edu.au/) are examples.

It is important to note that the universities who use the UMAT do not endorse any of these companies and you will receive free preparation materials once you register for the test (registration is now open).

Please go to [http://umat.acer.edu.au/](http://umat.acer.edu.au/) for more information about the UMAT and to see if you have to sit the test.

You can also join the ACER UMAT Facebook page to keep up to date with key information, [http://on.fb.me/1JTvUsf](http://on.fb.me/1JTvUsf)
Are you interested in Journalism? Twelve secondary school students run the ‘Under Age’ website which is a collaboration between The Age Newspaper and Express Media. You can visit the website regularly to read topical articles and there may be an opportunity in the future to contribute. www.theunderage.com.au

Casual employment: You can sign up for employment at the following websites:

- McDonald’s, http://bit.ly/1Bmfpeo

About 80% of all job vacancies aren’t advertised, so it is crucial that you market yourself to businesses with an excellent resume and cover letter. Make sure you tell as many people as possible that you are looking for work as often employers rely on ‘word of mouth’ to recruit for their positions.

For excellent job seeking tips, check out the resources at Victoria Youth Central and speak to your Career Adviser- www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/

Victoria Police Internship: Law students at Victoria University have access to a 10-week internship with the Legal Services Department and Prosecutions Division of Victoria Police. A small number of students will be selected each year to undertake placements in a variety of police specialist areas including:

- Melbourne Prosecutions Unit
- Research and Training Unit
- Civil Advocacy Unit
- Commissions and Inquiries Division, and
- Police Coronial Support Unit

High achieving Year 12 students who receive a place in the University, are eligible for the Chancellor’s Scholarship which is $20 000 over four years.

For more information on the Law program at VU, go to http://bit.ly/1UC4dEL

Charles Sturt University (CSU)- ‘MyDay’: Each year, CSU showcase their courses via a series of hands-on events. A MyDay will be held Friday 27 February at the Wagga Wagga campus showcasing courses in:

- Nursing
- Biomedical Sciences, and
- Medical Radiation Sciences (Medical Imaging, Radiation Therapy, and Nuclear Medicine)

For information and to register, go to www.csu.edu.au/go/myday

AFS Student Exchange: If you are interested in participating in an overseas exchange program or would like to find out more about becoming a host family, AFS runs over 100 online and face to face information seminars each year. For a list of upcoming events, go to www.afs.org.au/

Flight attendant careers session: Aviation Australia is running a Cabin Crew Career Session on Wednesday 2 March at Qantas Flight Training Centre, Airport West, Victoria. For information and to register, go to http://bit.ly/1WWwQ0M