



## *Newsletter Issue #12/30th August*

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### *A note from the Principal*



Dear Parents,

As the end of Term 3 is fast approaching, planning for Year 2020 is well underway. If your family will not be returning to Saltwater College in 2020, could you please notify the school as soon as possible as this will affect our enrolment numbers and classroom spaces for next year. We already have approximately 150 prep students enrolled for next year, with more enrolments expected. If you know of families who are thinking about enrolling at Saltwater College, please let them know to do so as soon as possible as I work through the classes workforce planning and class spaces for 2020.

We will be holding a parent information session for new families on Monday 2nd September in the gym at 6:30pm. Parents who wish to attend are advised to go onto our school website and make a booking.

In addition to this parent info session we will be holding school tours. Should anyone wish to join one of our school tours please notify the front office. These will be held regularly on Tuesday mornings by appointment only as we will be running small group of 6 parents at a time. Please note that bookings are essential.

I am pleased to confirm that a Modular 10 Portable classroom unit will be arriving within the next few weeks which will alleviate some of our large class size issues.

A Modular 10 is a double storey portable which will contain four classrooms. At this stage this Modular 10 will be placed next to the Performing Arts area. We will be moving the Year 6 classroom into this new space as well as Year 2C moving across. We will create a third Year 3 Classroom as the classroom numbers in this year are also high. Please note that an expression of interest letter will go out to parents who would like to move their children to the new classroom with one of our existing teachers as the classroom teacher.

You may have noticed, a number of works have been happening around the school, some of which includes the new gate for parents to walk through next to the car park. Within the coming weeks we will be constructing a footpath which will lead to the existing path in place. We are also working on beautifying all our garden beds and eliminating Mulch where we can to make for a cleaner and safer environment. This will also be including the Mulch area in front of the performing arts centre.

Other works which are scheduled during the school holidays will be the installation of shade sails in front of the canteen, creating a shaded area over the outdoor tables and chairs for children to sit down and enjoy their meals.

Lastly, it was a privilege to host a visit from The Mayor of Wyndham City Council, Cnr Mia Shaw, who visited our school on Wednesday 28th August. Mia was impressed with our school and particularly our student's behaviour during the assembly and also whilst walking through classrooms. I would like to thank the Year 6 leaders who were exceptional in leading the way and discussing the school's values, ethos and curriculum with Ms Shaw.



Jackie Daniali  
Principal

## Point Cook South Senior – Update 4



### **We've got a name! – Homestead Senior Secondary College**

The result of our community consultation is in and we have our proposed name – **Homestead Senior Secondary College**. The Department released this explanation for the school name; *the school is located on the Point Cook Homestead Road, and is in close proximity to the Point Cook Homestead complex (approx. 2.5km) which is of historical, aesthetic and scientific significance to the state of Victoria.*

Now that we have our name I am proceeding with our branding which will include our motto, logo and related imagery for the school. Stay tuned for further updates.

### **Enrolments**

Enrolments are underway, our Enrolment Form is available for pick up at Alamanda College reception or from Michael in the Yr7-9 Building.

We have already received more than 70 enrolment form returns. Thanks to those families who have responded so quickly! Forms must be returned to Michael. Please return your enrolment forms by Monday 16 September 2019.

Step one for all enrolment applications should be to check your address is within the school's zone at [www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au](http://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au)

*Michael is currently the sole staff member at Pt Cook South – please be aware that a response to your enrolment application will not be instant...*

### **Enrolment at Point Cook South Senior Secondary College (Interim Name)**

[www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au](http://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au)

Enrolment contact – 0436 922997

Enrolment contact – call Michael at Alamanda College – 8376 5200

Email – [fawcett.michael.m@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:fawcett.michael.m@edumail.vic.gov.au)

### **Uniform**

Big thanks to Alamanda Yr9 students Radhika, Abi, Richard, Victoria & Zainab for their amazing feedback on our uniform design. Their input has been incorporated into the design that has now moved into the sample production stage. This will be available for viewing at future information sessions and will also be on display at the Alamanda's Café Dare in the 7-9 building soon. Their work is an example of how our school will value real student input into everything we do.

### **Staffing**

The first round of advertisements for college staff have closed. The Business Manager and Assistant Principal roles will be appointed by the end of term 3 and will commence day one term 4. Then we will be advertising our Leading Teacher and Teaching positions. Support staff roles will also be advertised at this time. All positions are advertised on 'Recruitment Online' the Department's official recruitment platform.

Interested in working at Homestead? Contact Michael.

### **Meet the Principal event**

Our next public meeting will be held from 2.30-4.30pm on Monday 2 September at Saltwater P-9 College, followed by another on Thursday 19 September 6.30– 7.30pm again at Saltwater P-9 College.

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# *Student Wellbeing*

## **Bravehearts**

On Wednesday 28th of August, the Prep students had a visit from Ditto and Amber from Bravehearts to speak to our community and presenting 'Keeping Safe, Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show'. We were lucky enough to have them attend our college being Australia's leading child protection initiative.

During the show the children learnt about:

- Yes and No feelings
- Recognising body warning signs
- Identifying private parts and privacy
- Reinforcing that there is no secret that children cannot tell someone
- What to do if you feel safe or unsure

Ditto's 3 Rules:

1. We all have the right to feel safe with people.
2. It's ok to say NO if you feel unsafe or unsure.
3. Nothing is so yucky that you can't tell someone about it.

The adventure show empowers children to have personal safety skills and tools to stay safe.

Thank you to all the parents that came along.

Bravehearts is extremely proud of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure program and believes by empowering children with personal safety skills and knowledge, we are providing them with the tools to stay safe. However, just as teaching children road rules cannot guarantee our children's safety on the roads, no program can 'abuse-proof' our children.

Parents, grandparents, care-givers, teachers and all adults must be vigilant and informed.

For a Personal Safety Guide for Parents and Carers go to:

<https://bravehearts.org.au/what-we-do/education-and-training/for-parents/resources-for-parents/>

There are also many useful facts sheets available through their website.

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# *News Physical Education*

## **Saltwater Basketball /Netball Cub: Expression of interest:**

We will be starting up a Saltwater Basketball and Netball Club for any child who attends Saltwater College and any child within our community. The games will be played at the Altona Basketball Stadium on a Friday night/Saturday night (Basketball) and Saturday (Netball) for children from Prep to 17 years of age.

I will be the organiser of the Basketball and Netball Clubs, however once it is up and running, parents will coach each individual team and parents will also manage these teams.

Can you please send back an expression of interest to me no later than Friday 6 August 2019.

Once I have expression of interest notes back, I will be able to put basketball and netball teams together.

The next season will commence after Term 3 holidays early October.

For any more information please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Kelleigh Evans (Phys Ed Teacher)

My child is interested in playing Basketball or Netball for Saltwater College:

Child's name-----

Child's grade----- Sport (Basketball or Netball)-----

Parents name-----

Parents phone number-----

## **District Athletics:**

I would like to congratulate all of the children who competed in our very first District Athletics Carnival. The children have been training during their lunchtimes over the past 4 weeks in preparation for this event. Well done to everyone who competed, I am so very proud of you all.

The following children have progressed through to the next round at Divisional level on Thursday 12 September, I would like to wish them all the best for this day:

Jackline Malik

Ella Vrhovac

Travis Maleko

Vishesh Vellampalli

Naledi Radihephi

Jazz Williams

**Juzdyn Raymond**

**Georgia Cameron**

**Manaia Tai Rameko**

# News from Grade Prep



Dear Prep Families,

As we approach the end of term 3 and our Unit of Inquiry about living things, we have enjoyed engaging in some very meaningful experiences with our school peers.

We were very fortunate to have a special visitor from Bunnings come to speak to the prep students about how to plant seeds and what they need to survive. We all learnt that plants need air, sun and water to grow and thrive. Each prep class now has a pot plant with seedlings that have already started to sprout, and it has been great to see the students taking responsibility and caring for their living things.



Following this incursion, we wrote a procedural text on 'How to plant a seed'. This has provoked many different conversations and wonderings in class about other living things and their life cycles and how they survive in their changing habitats.

The motto for this year's Book Week was 'Reading is our Superpower' and we talked about how stories can teach us new things, comfort us and help us to learn new words to use in our own writing. To celebrate Book Week, students across the school participated in a variety of activities to discover new authors and foster our love for reading. Each class had the opportunity to create a door display representing one of our favourite texts that we have read. On Tuesday 20th of August, all of our preps participated in the Book Day parade along with their peers. We were so proud of how all the students were risk-takers and walked around the gymnasium to show off their fantastic costumes.

The students were so excited to become their own authors for the day as they had the opportunity to create their own version of a text that was read in their class. These are currently being published and we cannot wait to share them with all our families and friends. Thank you to all of the Prep families who engaged in the book fair and purchased books for their children, as well as for the classroom.

## Reminders:

- Please ensure your child brings their iPad to school EVERY day and FULLY charged.
- Please remind your child to bring their satchel to school EVERY day for possible notes to take home, particularly on your class's homework day.
- Homework is an important aspect of your child's education and learning. Please ensure your child is reading and practicing their words every night.

# News from Grade One



Dear Year 1 Families,

It has been an exciting and busy couple of weeks in Year 1 with the recent Scholastic Book Fair and Book Day! The students had a great day dressing up as their favourite book characters and parading around. They were also risk-takers when creating their class text innovations. This is where the students read a mentor text and respond to the literature by creating their own stories linked to the text.

1A's text innovation was on the BFG, where they wrote and drew their own dreams. 1B's text innovation was on the Wonky Donkey, where the students had the opportunity to write about their own chosen animals walking down the street. Last but not least, 1C's text innovation was based around the picture book, Wacky Wednesday, where they wrote about tricky Tuesday.

In Mathematics, the Year 1s have been practising their addition and subtraction strategies. Students have been practising counting on and subtracting using the smaller number first by rolling a die and writing their own sums to practise using their strategies to answer the question. The Year 1s have also begun to learn about chance. They love being given a scenario and determining whether it is most-likely, likely or unlikely to happen.

In Literacy, the Year 1s are at the end of learning about procedural texts. The students have had fun making origami dogs, playdough and popcorn and writing a procedure as a class and individually. The students are going to be writing a procedural text on how to eat a lolly snake. Their final summative, procedural text is to write a procedure about the egg drop experiment they are going to participate in for their inquiry. The students will be working in pairs to design a case for their eggs, which they will then drop from a height, to determine what materials can be used to keep the egg from cracking.

Parents please note a letter has gone home regarding the stay and play that was scheduled for Thursday the 29th of August. It is being moved to term 4. The reason for this is that we would like to arrange for an incursion/activity for the evening that links with our Unit of inquiry and unfortunately, we have not been able to successfully do this for the current unit.

Once arrangements have been made and a date is set, a letter will be sent home informing parents of all the details required.

Thanks,

Hannah Jones, Sheridan Jennings  
and Daina Nielsen.



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Pyjama Day 6th September
- Homework: Please make sure your child is completing their homework each night. If they have finished all tasks on Mathematics and Literacy Planet and would like some more, please see your child's teacher.

# News from Grade Two

Dear Year 2 families,

We have been very busy in Year 2! Students went on a local excursion to Saltwater Crocodile Park where they had the chance to observe and compare different transport systems. Students saw planes, cars, trucks, taxis and even got to travel in a bus!

We recently asked the students to be reflective and post a blog on Schoolbox about their favourite type of transport and the reason they like that type best. Here are a few of the student's responses:

Hayden from 2A posted, "My favourite transport is a helicopter because it moves fast and you don't have to get stuck in traffic."

Adeife from 2B posted, "I like planes because you can see a lot of clouds in different shapes and you can look down to see the beautiful view of the ground."

Arhaan from 2C posted, "I discovered that pilots have to be sensible flyers. The best type of transport is cycling because it doesn't need fuel and can stop at any time."

The students have been participating in Round 2 of the 'Word Mania' school competition on Literacy Planet. They are encouraged to practise this activity at home, to complement their spelling homework. The final round commences 28th August and concludes 30th August.

Last week, Year 2 students participated in Saltwater P-9 College's first EVER book day. Students were busy creating their own class text innovation, based on a mentor text and this will be made into a class book – stay tuned! They celebrated by dressing up as their favourite book character/superhero and showcasing their costumes during the whole school parade. Congratulations to Chrisma for winning best costume! Each of the classes chose a theme from a favourite book to decorate their doors. Class 2A took inspiration from 'The BFG', Class 2B from 'The Wonky Donkey', and Class 2C from 'Wanted! Ralfy Rabbit, Book Burglar'. The classroom doors looked fantastic!



In Mathematics, Year 2 students have been learning about additive thinking. They have been using tools and strategies such as tens frames, place value mats, number lines and splitting to solve a range of problems. Don't forget to help them consolidate and extend their learning by adding up prices and totals when out shopping or working out the footy scores!



Class 2B have been lucky to welcome student teacher Laura Comyns from Deakin University who is undertaking her final classroom placement as part of her Masters of Education (Primary). She would like to share the following:

Hi parents!

I received such a warm welcome from the staff and students here at Saltwater College and I'm very excited to get the chance to learn about and teach the students in 2B. I've worked as a teachers' assistant in the past and love the idea of eventually having my own class with curious and creative learners!

The students in 2B are very caring and inquisitive and have made it very easy to settle into their learning area; I hope they enjoy my stay for the five weeks.

Miss Comyns



Kind regards,

Year 2 Team – Mr. McIntyre, Miss Nardella, Miss Chong

#### Reminders:

- Please ensure students with iPads bring their devices to school, fully charged, to maximise their learning in classroom.
- Please ensure that students are reading every night and completing their homework – this enables students to consolidate what they have learnt in class.
- Students should bring fruits, snack and lunch for breaks, especially healthy food options. Students are not encouraged to share their food due to allergies.

# News from Grade Three

Dear Year 3 families,

We would like to start by thanking both parents and students for their understanding and cooperation with the recent changes to the Year 3 teaching team. We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Sarah Martin to the Year 3 team as the new teacher of 3A, alongside Miss V who will be assisting the Year 3 team and working with both classes.

**NAPLAN Assessments:**

Last week, all Year 3 students re-sat the practise NAPLAN assessments that they completed at the start of the year. These assessments provide teachers with great data of where the students are at and what areas still need to be focused on. As a team, the teachers are very pleased with the growth the cohort has made this year. This is a true testament to how hard students have worked on their personal learning goals.

**Unit of Inquiry:**

We are currently finishing our fourth Unit of Inquiry for this year, 'How We Organise Ourselves'. We have seen great enthusiasm and interest from the students during this unit as they inquired into natural events and the impacts they have on humans and the environment. Students have acquired knowledge about the different natural events that occur, as well as an understanding about the physical characteristics of Earth. Please see below photos of some of the experiments we have conducted as part of this Inquiry.



**Book Day Parade:**

On Tuesday the 20th of August, we had our Inaugural Saltwater Book Day Parade. We were so impressed with the amount of effort and creativity students displayed in their costumes. Congratulations to Levi Knight of 3A who won the 'best dressed' award for Year 3. Levi gave us Goosebumps with his take on 'Slappy' from the Goosebumps series.

**Word Mania:**

We are so excited to share that the Year 3's have made it to the finals for Word Mania. We are so impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication students have shown to playing in this competition. We encourage all students and families to keep practising their skills on Word Mania every night. The finals round starts on Wednesday the 28th of August until Friday the 30th of August.

Kind regards,

Danielle Colling and Emily Goegan  
Year 3 Classroom Teachers

## Important Reminders:

- School banking is every Friday. If you require more information on this, please see Michael Nicolaides
- Year 3 Homework for weeks 7-8 due Friday the 6th of September
- Word Mania competition Wednesday 28th of August – Friday 30th of August

# News from Grade Four

## Book Week:

Thank you so much to our parents and students who helped to make Saltwater College's first ever Book Week celebration a success. The teachers were blown away by the effort put in to outfits, costumes and class work. Dressing up as characters from our favourite books was a way to celebrate literacy and recognise the stories that inspire and excite us. Students in both classes were able to share and learn about each other's favourite texts, broadening their knowledge. Photos from both classes have been uploaded onto the Year 4 Schoolbox page.

## Literacy:

As part of our Book Week activities, students completed an innovation on a text. Students read a book as a class and used it as a foundation to create a writing piece of their own. First, we identified the different text features the author may have utilised, such as a refrain or particular sentence starters. We also examined the tone, vocabulary and target audience. With this knowledge, students created an innovation on this text, replicating the style and tone from the text and putting their own personal spin on it. 4A read "My Dad Thinks He's Funny" and applied it to their own family members, while 4B examined "When I Grow Up" and wrote about their dreams and goals.

## Reptile Encounter Incursion:

On Monday, the Grade 4 cohort were treated to a visit from Jess from Reptile Encounters. This incursion was aimed at introducing our students to threatened and endangered native Australian species. Students were delighted to meet many of Jess' furry and scaly friends including Penny the Turtle, Sammy the Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo and Tiny the Python (please note, he was not tiny!). We learned facts about the animals, including the adaptations they have developed to survive in the wild, as well as the threats they are facing to their habitats and survival. Some of our students were lucky enough to get hands on with these creatures.

Following the incursion, students have been using their research skills to learn more about these animals, what is causing them to become endangered, and investigate what we can do to help them survive.

## Inquiry:

On Friday, Jay from the front office came into our grades to share his personal expertise on podcasting. Our students have been creating information reports and are exploring different mediums to share information with an audience. Jay spoke about how podcasts are the fastest growing communication medium and a way for people to inform, educate and entertain an audience. Students will have an opportunity to create podcasts of their own in class to demonstrate their knowledge on animal adaptations.



Thank you and kind regards,  
Brendan Howarth & Karen Costabile  
Year 4 Team



# News from Grade Five



**Students of the week:**  
**Mia Nicolas and Amarachi Ezema**

Unit of inquiry:

Where we are in place and time

Central idea: Migration may be a response to challenges and opportunities.

In year 5 we have just begun our new unit of inquiry. We have been working hard on our student wonderings and provocations into Migration and its challenges. Building on the central idea we will be utilising the key concepts of perspective, causation and change. During this unit the year 5's will be deepening their knowledge on the drivers of migration, how migration contributes to the culture, and economy of a country and the controversy surrounding migration.

Maths:

We have continued to take ownership over our learning whilst working hard in our focus groups and working towards achieving our personal learning goals. During our current unit of inquiry we will be beginning data representation and interpretation and measurement and geometry.

Literacy:

As a year level we are continuing with our author studies and the use of the Solo Taxonomy questions. Comparing and contrasting themes, analysing text and illustrations on the book titled 'cyclone' by Jackie French. We will be creating an historical narrative with a focus on structure, cause and effect and the use of passive voice.

Last week the year 5 students went on their very first camp to Cave Hill Creek. On behalf of the teachers we would like to congratulate the students for their excellent behaviour and representing Saltwater on such an exciting camp.

Year 5's favourite camp moments:

"My Favourite bit about camp was how we had to do a lot of activities that I haven't done before like abseiling, the giant ladder, canning, biking, and hut building. They were all fun to do, but my favourite activity was the canning because I have never done canning before and I was really nervous to do it. However, I nearly fell into the river because the boat was leaning back and forth over and over again".

By Madison Draper



On the 20th of August 2019 we left for our first camp at Saltwater P-9 college. Our first drive was 2 hours to sovereign. After we completed all the fun activities we had a 40 minute drive to Cave Hill Creek. When we got there we saw kangaroos out the front of the main building. On the first night of camp we had meatballs with potato and veggies, then we went for a night walk. We saw lots of wildlife and few koalas in a very tall tree, I kept scaring Mina and Simone. It was very funny and we had marshmallows then went back to our cabins then to bed.

By Luca Hall

Book Day Reflection:

On the 20th of August, Saltwater P.9 College held a book day. We all got to dress up as our favourite book character and bring props as well. We had a special gym, and each class got to walk around the gym, showing off their costume. Mrs Bervanakis dressed up as Captain Hook, and all of the people who dressed up as Peter Pan had to go up and tap her on the shoulder and run away! Overall, Book Day was really fun!

By Mila and Dee



# News from Grade Six



## Student Mock ELECTION

On Wednesday 28th August, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducted a Mock Election in our classroom. This was based on a program that we used titled “Passport to Democracy”. Over the past 8 weeks students researched into a topic/issue that they felt resonated with them, elected a representative and created a campaign video that highlighted their mission, vision and campaign. The reason for this was to highlight the purpose of identifying an issue, making it relate-able, bringing it to life and then campaigning with the hope of being elected into our classroom parliament. The students created their own political party names which were “The Australian Anti-Vandalising Party, The Homeless Free Party, The Australian Medics Party, The Anti-Littering Society, The Anti-Global Racism Party and The Primary Party. Overall this was an incredible experience for all the students and it was clear on their faces and reflections that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Here are some questions that were raised and answered:

### **What is the Mock Election?**

The Mock Election was a non-partisan, educational event that taught the students to be informed voters. All Year 6 students at Saltwater College participated in the incursion.

### **What was on the ballot?**

Students voted on real ballot measures, on real candidates, and on real paper in the Mock Election.

### **How did students cast their votes?**

Just like adult voters in our state, students voted on paper ballots. The advantage of paper ballots was the ability to audit the results.

### **Did students need to pre-register?**

No pre-registration is necessary; students may register and vote in one sitting. Participation was free.

### **Below are some student reflections from the incursion and the program:**

A reflection written by Stella Knight:

“Over the past 8 weeks of school we have been working on creating our own mock election. To do this we needed to think of topics we thought were important to resolve. Some examples were racism, homelessness, vandalism, cost of medication and child abuse. Then we researched into our topics and created our campaign name e.g: kill the cancer, a home for everyone and be wise and don't vandalise. After creating our campaign name, we created our slogan and party name. I was in the Homeless Free Party. Our slogan was 'everyone deserves a home'. Afterwards we used our imagination and creativity to make posters that showcased our campaign name, our party name and our slogan. Then we put a vote on who we thought would be an excellent candidate to represent our party. Then the candidate wrote a speech on behalf of the group. This was turned into a campaign ad. After this we presented our ad to the class, and every other group gave us feedback so that we could go away and improve our work.”

A reflection written by Hunter Marcic:

“On the 28th of August, we had a visit from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), the person representing the VEC facilitated and ran a mock election to vote for a representative of 6 different parties. She selected several people to hand out ballot papers, control the queue and stop trouble makers from ruining the election by double voting or putting fake ballot papers into ballot boxes. After the votes were collated we stood at the front and awaited the results. Then the ballot papers were distributed to all of the parties and then added up, the parties had to receive 19 votes to win the election. But no party won in the first preference, because of this, the party with the lowest amount of votes had to be eliminated and the second preference had to be given out. Still no winner, so my party was eliminated. This happened 2 more times before we reached the winner; The Anti Global Racism Party. From this 8 week journey I have gained extensive knowledge on our Government, when this unit began I had little knowledge on what government is, now politics is my favourite subject and I wish to continue learning about our government and about other governments, too.”

# News from Grade Six Continued...



A reflection written by Hunter Marcic:

“Yesterday, Amy from the Victorian Electoral Commission or the VEC came and visited our class. Amy unpacked the document Passport To Democracy. She ran an activity where we had to estimate or remember what these certain peoples job were and how they were run by the local, state or national councils. Close to the end, she made us do a mock election we had to vote on a party from watching their campaign video. I was in the Australian Anti Global Racism Party. Amy gave us ballot papers with the different parties in them. At first, we were losing but none of the parties reached 50% +1 vote. This meant the party with the lowest vote were eliminated and those party papers that had second preferences were then distributed to the remaining parties. We kept on going until a party had reached 19 votes, which thankfully was my group. I learned that in politics the second preferences can be quite powerful when influencing a vote. The lowest party or the one with the least amount of votes get eliminated and pass the votes on.

I was thankful that Amy came and I learned more about politics than I did before.”

## The Importance of Writing and Modelling Feedback and Reflections

Feedback informs a student and/or teacher about the student’s performance relative to learning goals. Its purpose is to improve the student’s learning. Feedback redirects or refocuses the actions of teacher and student so the student can align effort and activity with a clear outcome that leads to achieving a learning goal. Both teachers and peers can provide formal or informal feedback. It can be oral or written, formative or summative. Whatever its form, it always comprises specific advice a student can use to improve their performance. When teachers use feedback to guide their practice, then they amplify their impact on student learning.

Research shows appropriate feedback has very high effects on learning. Its effectiveness is evident for students and teachers (Education Endowment Foundation, 2015). Studies with the highest effect sizes involved students receiving feedback about a task and how to do it more effectively. Feedback in the form of praise, punishment and rewards has lower effect sizes (Hattie & Timperley, 2007). There is evidence that feedback is more effective if it focuses on the task, not the person, and that feedback on familiar tasks has more impact (Kluger & DeNisi, 1996).

Positive feedback is powerful. It can have a negative influence too, unless close attention is paid to the type of feedback and the way it is given. Feedback is most useful in resolving misconceptions, and less useful in resolving a lack of understanding. Research suggests positive feedback is specific, accurate and clear.

Signature characteristics of positive feedback are that it:

- provides detail, such as ‘You achieved a good outcome because you...,’ rather than just ‘correct’ or ‘incorrect’
- compares what a student is doing now with previous work, such as, ‘I can see you focused on improving X –the result is much better than when you did Y last time’
- providing specific guidance on how to improve, and not just tell students when they are wrong
- is framed to encourage and support further effort
- is given sparingly so that it is meaningful
- is supported by effective professional development for teachers.