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Year 12 students return to the classroom to tackle a challenging year

About 14,000 secondary school students across South Australia will return to the classroom this week to attempt to successfully complete their SACE qualification.

SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran, said Year 12 was one of the most challenging years students would undergo as part of their secondary schooling careers.

“A great number of future career aspirations ride on the final year, and it can be quite daunting, but it is important to keep the experience in perspective and plan ahead,” Dr McGoran said.

“Apart from the high academic standards the SACE demands, students need to develop a strong work ethic. With 70 per cent of assessments occurring in schools, students need to complete up to 40 assessment tasks during the year- which adds up to more than one a week,” he said.

When questioned about the tactics they used to succeed, the top achieving Year 12s from last year who received Governor of South Australia Commendations for overall excellence in the SACE advised:

- Build strong relationships with teachers and don't be afraid to ask for their advice.
- Rather than just learning information, understand the concepts behind subjects.
- Develop robust study plans and checklists.
- Utilise strong time management and organisational skills.
- Choose subjects aligned with your strengths and interests.
- Don't be put off by disappointing assessment results through the year – keep your larger overall goals in mind.
- Use network of friends and family for support during the tough times.
- Strike a balance between study, sport and social activities.
- Be disciplined when it comes to social media usage.
- Look after your health and wellbeing - get adequate rest and consume a balanced diet.

Dr McGoran said that as students set their goals for the year, it was important for them not to lose sight of the role the SACE played in preparing them for their lives beyond school.

“As a rigorous and internationally recognised qualification, the SACE requires students to demonstrate high academic achievement,” he said.

“Apart from literacy and numeracy skills, the SACE develops capabilities in information and communication technology, ethical and intercultural understanding and helps students grow their confidence, independence, resilience, initiative and adaptability.

“Importantly, it helps students evolve their critical and creative thinking so they can become self-directed learners who have initiative, can drive their own learning and apply their skills, knowledge and understanding to a variety of settings.

“By becoming self-directed learners, our young people are better placed to excel in training, university and work settings, and not only more capable of securing jobs, but also keeping them.”

A host of support materials about the SACE and information about counselling services are available on the SACE Board website at www.sace.sa.edu.au