Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you of two innovations in learning and teaching at Alfred Deakin High School (ADHS):

- In the coming months the Education and Training Directorate will be deploying ‘SchoolsNet’ to all schools. This will move all staff and student accounts to a single network and will significantly improve the number of devices that can use the ADHS WIFI service.
- ADHS is introducing Google Apps for Education (GAFE). An online platform, GAFE provides a range of applications in a closed online environment owned and managed by the Education and Training Directorate and ADHS. Wherever the user has internet access, including smartphones, they have access to their account and their school work.

Our dream for what learning looks like at ADHS is one where students can engage with a world of information, innovation and change via the web, develop their own authentic learning projects that allow them to satiate their curiosity and their passions for various issues and become positive contributors to their own personal development and that of their community.

We believe moving to GAFE will:
- Improve how students learn
- Prepare students for the world of learning and working in the 21st Century
- Improve parents’ knowledge of student progress
- Assist student collaboration with peers and parents
- Enable constant access to learning
- Prepare students to be responsible digital citizens
- Provide students with a huge range of methods to express their insights and skills
- Support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum at ADHS
- Provide a platform to support student portfolios during secondary schooling

All ADHS students have been assigned a GAFE account and log on. There are a number of classes who have already migrated their work to the GAFE platform, rather than the student network. We envisage that by the beginning of the 2014 school year all ADHS students will commence using GAFE. This will give our students a learning platform in the cloud (Google Drive) that will allow them to create and collaborate on documents wherever they are. Expectations within this space are the same as those identified through our Acceptable Use of ICT Policy.

ADHS became a BYOD school at the beginning of 2013. We are promoting the use of mobile devices in 2014 across the school, and will be replacing the traditional book packs with a single purchase offer for a Chromebook or similar for students. We will be providing further information...
shortly on how to purchase these laptops and our recommended provider. At this stage all your Chrome, GAFE and BYOD questions can be answered by following the links on our website.

As parents and guardians of our students we would like to work in partnership with you in this important transition. We will be holding information and training sessions for parents and students as well as creating Youtube videos and Deakin Digest articles. We ask that you begin the conversation with your child at home about their dreams for what their learning experience could be like and how they can share their formal educational journey with you.

If you have any questions that are not answered by the ICT@ADHS page of our website, please do not hesitate to contact the school on (02) 6205 5566.

Respectfully yours,

Belinda Bartlett,
Principal
Alfred Deakin High School
Canberra, Australia