Dear Parents of 2013 VET, VCE Outdoor Ed and VCE Dance Students,

I would like to make you aware of two important implications of your child’s “option” choice of a VET program or VCE Outdoor Ed or VCE Dance.

**Attendance**
It is an expectation that students attend **all classes** even when those classes are held during MECS holiday weeks.

**Financial Implications**
The cost to you will be **at least** $250 (for VET and VCE Dance), and some VET courses **also** have materials/textbook fees. The cost for Outdoor Ed will be **$400**. The **MECS community** (tuition and materials) pays the remainder of the tuition fees, which can be anywhere up to **$800** (capped) depending on the course. Students choosing VET Courses costing more than **$800**, will be required to pay the difference.

These optional programs allow for a probationary period which lasts until the end of February, and it is only after this period has been completed, that the **school** is billed by the providers. If a student withdraws from the program after the last day of February, the school must still make its payment. This is similar to the way the Government views “Commonwealth Supported Places” at university. The Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) scheme only charges students after a probationary four week period. A student who leaves a university course after this period must still pay course fees.

In previous years, we have had a few students who stopped attending their VET/VCE courses late in Term 1. However, their host schools still kept the monies paid by MECS, because the deadline had expired. You will agree that this situation is a poor use of the school’s resources. For these reasons, we have decided that if your child leaves his or her VET/VCE course after the February deadline without a substantial reason, you will be billed for a proportion of the school’s contribution.

We therefore encourage you to discuss the serious nature of commitment to the VET/VCE program for the whole year and not just the first four weeks. Please return the slip below to the school office by **Wednesday, 13 February, 2013**.

Yours truly,
Dr Andrew Schmidt
VET Coordinator
14 February 2013

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Dear Dr Schmidt,

We have discussed the above with _________________________________ (student name) and agree to abide by the conditions stated.

Signed: ________________________________ Parent/Guardian

Signed: ________________________________ Student     Date: ________________