

DAMASCUS COLLEGE BALLARAT

Year 10 at Damascus College in 2015 was a fantastic year. Not only was it a time that prepared us for becoming senior students but also prepared us for life outside of school. We were able to participate in amazing programs such as Work Experience and the Christian Personal Development Award (CPDA), which gave us valuable life skills that you can't teach inside a classroom. We were also able to take part in the annual school events such as the middle school formal and the swimming carnival, which are always a blast!

I would like to thank all the teachers for their many stressful hours correcting work, preparing lessons and writing up exams for us. We may not seem thankful, but deep down we are all very appreciative of the effort you have put in for us.



Christmas is just around the corner, which means presents, gingerbread and candy canes for most but it is times like these that you can get so caught up in the 'taking' that you forget the 'giving' and the true 'meaning' of Christmas. Christmas should be a fun and happy time of year that involves appreciating the things we usually take for granted, such as family. It is about remembering the holiest of families from Nazareth and God's gift to the world of the birth of a son over 2000 years ago. So this Christmas, I encourage everyone to be more appreciative of the little things and to enjoy spending the time with your loved ones.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas in readiness for another great year, 2016!

Ellie Cushion – Year 10

Ellie pictured in the CPDA program. Top, in the knitting session and bottom, attending the retreat.