Recently a group of students from Benalla P-12 College attended a Student Leadership Camp at the College’s school camp at Nillahcootie. The group comprised of students from Years 9 to 12 which included School Captains, School Vice Captains, House Captains, House Leaders and Student Representatives.

Student Leadership and House Co-ordinator, Kellie Cairncross said “We reinforced the important role that our student leaders have in our school. Our Student Leadership Group (SLG) members represent all students in our school and organise ways for students to participate and contribute to our school community. They work democratically to represent the student body in school decision-making. Students work together, with help from our staff members, to improve school life and to contribute students’ ideas. Ultimately, our SLG is a student led initiative which works towards increasing student voice across all areas impacting our school and our wider community.”

The main purpose of our forum was for the leaders to identify and discuss issues impacting the College and identifying strategies to help the school to be a more welcoming, safe and enjoyable place for all students. Student Leaders focused on the school’s Anti-Bullying policy. They provided insightful and valuable feedback and strategies that they think can help stop students from bullying and consequences that students who have been identified as bullying should face.

Students also participated in a workshop where they identified what they felt were the strengths and weaknesses of the school. Kellie Cairncross said “Currently we have two student representatives on our School Council that attend monthly meetings and students will be organising fundraising for the ‘Biggest Morning Tea in June. We will be continuing this work in our Leadership meetings by focusing on areas that our students feel we can improve in.”

Principal, Barbara O’Brien said “I visited the Student Leadership Camp and was in awe of the commitment by these students towards marking our College a vibrant and exciting place for all students. We will continue to provide many opportunities for student to ‘have a say’ in the organisation and running of our College.”