



# Victoria University Secondary College

Create The Future

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Victoria University Secondary College encourages students to Create The Future by:

*Aspiring to **Achieve**,*

*Strengthening the **Community***

*Respecting **Ourselves and Others***



## Our College Logo

**T**he symbol is based on the appearance of a wreath. Wreaths are commonly associated with success and eternity. Each leaf of the wreath is intended to represent the school's success and the success of the students. The flowing movement of the leaves stand for the progressive journey of students. This is accentuated by the dots on the side, which gradually enlarge to indicate students going through each year of secondary school. The final leaf separated from the wreath symbolises the successful students brought up by the school, who enter and strengthen our community. The fact that leaves fly to new and unknown places relates to the multitude of students' aspirations beyond their secondary schooling. Wreaths are also evergreen plants lasting throughout all seasons. The strength of these plants signifies the strength of the school community and the bond between teachers, students and their parents.



**Genevieve Simson**  
College Principal



**Elaine Hazim**  
Senior Campus Principal



**Sue Atzarakis**  
Junior Campus Principal

## From the Principals

**V**ictoria University Secondary College is a learning community where all staff learn together and continuously improve, and where students are guided to discover their talents, make the most of them and develop goals for their future.

Our vision is for students to be educated and enabled to Create the Future: their own future, their communities' future and the global future. Students create their future by following our values of Aspiring to Achieve, Strengthening the Community and Respecting Ourselves and Others.

Our vision is future focused and empowering. We aim to encourage visionary thinking; to enable members of our learning community to adapt to an ever changing world and prepare for global challenges; to be adaptive and flexible in their thinking and to have the skills to engage with current and emerging technologies.

We empower members of our learning community to develop control over their own thinking and actions, develop the self-belief and confidence to persevere with learning challenges and tasks and to take initiative and act. Our focus on reflective thinking develops independent learners. Our focus on collaboration develops students who are able to work co-operatively towards a common goal; to share ideas and resources while respecting and recognising individual contributions.

Members of our learning community are enabled to be curious and to actively evaluate new knowledge; to test its quality, value and reliability, and to give an informed opinion in a range of contexts. Teachers enable students to relate new learning to prior knowledge, explore the relevance of concepts learned to the individual, local and wider community

and connect their knowledge to future opportunities. Students develop the skills to create respectful learning relationships within the school and the wider community.

At VUSC we believe all students can succeed with effort and persistence. We teach our students to aim for excellence in all that they do. Our teaching and learning framework is based on a synthesis of recent educational research. Enacting this research in the classroom leads to high quality instruction that is reliably delivered throughout the school.

Parents and prospective students are warmly invited to contact the College and make an appointment for a tour to see classes in action. We look forward to seeing you at Victoria University Secondary College.

**Genevieve Simson**  
Principal





# Scholarship Program

Victoria University Secondary College provides an opportunity for our community to share in our success by offering College Scholarships that support worthy students in realising their educational and social goals. The College motto 'Create the Future' signals to students that we provide them with every opportunity to reach their individual potential in an environment that promotes academic excellence, community responsibility and unqualified respect for all individuals. The College offers a range of scholarships in the following areas:

## Academic Excellence Scholarships

These scholarships are available to students with an exemplary academic record who have demonstrated outstanding application and achievement in one or more of English, Humanities, Mathematics or Science along with a strong performance in general studies and technology. Students will display a passion for learning, outstanding work ethic and a preparedness to participate fully in the life of Victoria University Secondary College.

## Leadership & Community Contribution Scholarships

These Scholarships are available to students who have demonstrated leadership skills in primary school as well as citizenship and a commitment to the broader community. Students will be encouraging and supportive of their peers, and display a strong academic performance, outstanding work ethic and positive behaviours, together with a preparedness to participate fully in the life of Victoria University Secondary College.

## Music Excellence Scholarships

These scholarships are available to students who have displayed outstanding aptitude, experience and commitment in Instrumental Music. Applicants should have a record of involvement in all aspects of Primary School life in addition to musical talents. Students will demonstrate an outstanding work ethic and positive behaviours, and a preparedness to participate fully in the life of the College.

## Sporting Excellence Scholarships

These scholarships are available to keen sports persons who have

demonstrated outstanding sporting skills, positive behaviours and a commitment to doing their best not only on the sporting field, but also in their academic development. Personal qualities of sportsmanship and leadership are important, together with a preparedness to participate fully in the life of Victoria University Secondary College.

## Selection

Equality of opportunity underpins our Scholarships Program. Selection is based on a written application and interview. Students are also required to present a current school report and reference together with a portfolio of their work which best supports the scholarship they are applying for. Applicants for Music Excellence Scholarships may also be required to audition. Applicants are not required to sit an entry exam.

## Application & School Tours

Scholarship Applications are available early in Term 1 each year for entry the following year. To see the College in action, please arrange an appointment for a tour by contacting the college on 9363 1155.



# Junior Campus Deer Park

(Years 7, 8 and 9)

As students progress through Year 7 and 8, their curriculum is grounded in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy, with Information Communication Technologies and AVID strategies also at the foreground of each subject area. Students undertake a breadth of discipline areas, allowing them to explore their interests. Working within the Year 7 - 9 Learning Village and situated in flexible learning areas, life long learning skills such as good organisation, a strong work ethic and a desire to achieve their full potential are promoted throughout these years.

Throughout Year 9, students have the opportunity to engage in exciting new programs within a range of electives and specialised classes. Students focus on developing their life skills by strengthening and engaging with the broader community. Students are also involved in a range of programs and initiatives designed to build their self-confidence, foster independent learning and develop a greater sense of respect for themselves as well as others, ensuring our students enter the Later Years with confidence and a clear sense of direction.

Our unique TEAM 9 Program assists students with their growth and development, and provides them with the opportunity to express themselves by experiencing a variety of activities which are challenging and engaging. It successfully improves the engagement and connectedness of students to their learning and the development of leadership qualities in a team environment. The program is made up of four elements relating to the college vision and values.





# Senior Campus St Albans

(Years 10, 11 and 12)

Victoria University Secondary College takes pride in guiding and supporting students as they travel through secondary school life and beyond. Our extensive VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education), VET (Vocational Education Training) and VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) programs give students every opportunity to specialise in the subject areas of their choice.

Our Trade Training Centre has been specifically designed to give students practical training in several trades such as building and construction, electrotechnology, telecommunications cabling, and air conditioning.

Our expert careers staff coordinate our Managed Individual Pathways (MIPS) and Careers programs. Together we help plan individual learning needs and preferences. Subject selection and VCE/VCAL/VET programs are

discussed with each student. Industry based work experience and structured workplace learning is also facilitated at all levels within the Later Years.

The Later Years staff work to ensure the individual success of every student, with extensive support for all to achieve their goals in the final years of their secondary schooling and beyond. They are supported by the Later Years Learning Village team, with a separate study area and continual support programs in the areas of study techniques, well-being, additional tuition and careers advice.

As students progress through to post-compulsory education, we look at every opportunity to pursue tertiary studies, traineeships and apprenticeships. Each step provides exciting new possibilities for the future of each of our students.

**Students have access to a wide range of aspirational opportunities and partnerships.**

These include:

- The Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program
- The Hall & Wilcox Aspirations Program
- Victoria University Early University Program
- The Beacon Foundation
- Western Chances Scholarship Program
- Sports Academy with Melbourne Storm and Melbourne Rebels partnerships



# Trade Training Centre

The Trade Training Centre at our Cairnlea Campus is a brand new, state of the art training facility which was funded by the Federal Government.

The Trade Training Centre provides industry standard facilities and vocational training courses for secondary school students in selected trades occupations. As with all Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects, students from Victoria University Secondary College as well as students from other schools within the Brimbank VET Cluster may enrol

in these subjects and attend the Trade Training Centre for classes.

Students may elect to undertake a VET subject as part of their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). VET programs offer students industry specific and practical experience in a particular vocational area, as well as gaining a nationally recognised certificate. The courses are designed to meet the needs of industry and prepare students for the workforce.

Our College has specialised facilities for VET courses including building and construction, sport and recreation, telecommunications, electrical and information technologies. Please refer to the College's Later Years handbook for more information.

A full range of VET subjects is offered to students through our Brimbank VET Cluster arrangements with local schools and TAFE providers.







## Transition to Year 7

The transition from primary school is seamless for our Year 7 students. Our orientation program brings Year 6 students into the College where they quickly begin to develop new friendships and familiarise themselves with their teachers. Students start the secondary school year with confidence, supported by the Year 7-9 Learning Village team.

At Year 7, each student works with their Home Group teachers, meeting with them each morning in their homeroom. The Home Group teacher also teaches that group throughout the week so that a strong and

trusting relationship can be built. This enables teachers to take an active interest in each student's wellbeing.

Students at Year 7 have the majority of their classes in a specialised area. Students are required to bring their own device for use at school as ICT technologies are incorporated throughout the curriculum and are facilitated by a wide range of online teaching and learning applications. Each student is provided with a locker and combination lock to securely store their belongings.

## Further Transition Programs

Our students are supported throughout their secondary schooling to progress to the next year level with confidence. The College's promotion policies give clear expectations of the required level of commitment for progression to the next year level and our orientation activities in Term 4 each year assist students to gain a good understanding of the curriculum and opportunities available to further their education.

As part of the transition for our Year 9 students to our Senior Campus, students are involved in a number of visits and activities throughout the year. For our senior students, classes are arranged after end of year exams to give students a headstart to their VCE/VCAL courses.



## Student Leadership

Student leadership development is a priority of the College and is strongly supported by the school community. Through a 'student voice' focus, students are encouraged to have an input into programs and new initiatives, while developing strong teamwork and leadership skills. Our Student Representative Council (SRC)

plan and implement several fundraising events during the year and organise assemblies and activities for their fellow students. Students actively engage in school leadership through the Student Leadership Team, College Captains, House Captains, Year Level and Class Captains, as well as Sport and Music Captains.

## AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a highly successful and innovative teaching program which is offered to students at Years 7 – 11. It is designed to provide students with academic and organisational skills which prepare them well for VCE, university and beyond.

Students who successfully apply for the AVID program are encouraged to take the most difficult subjects in the later years of their schooling and are taught the skills to be successful in those subjects through their junior years. The College has invested in AVID training for our teachers who use strategies to teach the students specific skills in reading, writing, inquiry, collaboration and organisation.

The AVID program is offered to students who are performing at the VELS standard for their year level, who would benefit from AVID tutorials to improve their results and prepare them for university. Additionally, the AVID programs suits students for whom English is their second language; students who would be the first in their family to attend university; or students who have special circumstances which may be an obstacle to academic achievement. Statistics collected over the last 30 years in the USA show that AVID students have triple the success rate of getting into and completing university, compared to non-AVID students.





## Music and Performing Arts

Victoria University Secondary College has a long-standing reputation for excellence in Music and Performing Arts. Through a multitude of performance ensembles and theatrical productions incorporating music, drama and vocals, we encourage our students to develop their individuality and talents, and increase their self-confidence.

The college engages many music instrumental and singing teachers offering students a wide range of learning options including piano, guitar, percussion, and woodwind instruments.

Instrumental music and vocals students have a weekly 30 minute lesson on a rotating timetable so that they do not miss the same class each week. These lessons are compulsory for these students and essential in developing their skills in vocals or on their chosen instrument.

### These include:

- Year 7 – 9 Concert Bands
- Junior Stage Band
- Rock Bands
- Senior Concert Band
- Senior Stage Band
- Chamber Ensembles



Our unique and innovative music curriculum provides students with numerous live performance opportunities, both at the college and in the wider community. Students perform in a variety of contemporary and classical ensembles, including Junior Concert Band, Senior Concert Band, Stage Band, Rock Band, Chamber Ensembles and Solo Performances.

Students have the opportunity to take part in the college theatre production every year. The production involves students from both the Junior and Senior campuses, participating in everything from singing, dancing and acting to costumes, make-up and set production. Students also help backstage with props and lighting, and front of house with ticket sales and seating. The college Concert Bands play the music for the theatre productions and rehearsals take place in our Drama complex. In past years productions have included 'Fame', 'The Wedding Singer', 'Grease' and 'Hamlet'.

### The VUSC Sports Academy Programs are:

1. Talent Identification and Junior Development Program (Grade 5 and 6)
2. Athlete Development Program (Year 7-12)
3. Sport Leadership Program (Year 9-12)
4. Sport Development Programs – Rugby Academy (Year 10-12), Soccer (Year 7-12), Netball (Year 7-12)

## Sports Health and Physical Education

The College encourages and provides for participation in a wide range of team and individual sports through inter-school sports, camps and excursions. These are held regularly to help personal development, build self-esteem and foster teamwork. Our Sport, Health and Physical Education program challenges students to move beyond their comfort zone and explore new frontiers, encouraging self-motivation and well-being.

## Rugby Academy, Soccer and Netball

VUSC has partnerships with the following professional clubs whose coaches run our Sport Development Programs in conjunction with our specially trained staff: Melbourne Storm Rugby League Club, Melbourne Rebels Rugby Union Club, Melbourne Victory Football Club and Melbourne Vixens Netball Club. The focus of these programs is to increase students' skills and knowledge of the games to perform at the level required to gain selection into the representative teams of professional sporting clubs. Students are able to receive an insight into how

Sport, Health and Physical Education play an important part in an individual's holistic growth and development. In order to develop these skills further, students require specialised and specific support to create a pathway for further sporting success. The purpose of the VUSC Sport Academy is to encourage positive educational outcomes for all students through sport and recreation.

a professional athlete gains selection and progression through the grades. They are able to interact with specialist coaches from VUSC and the professional clubs, including strength and conditioning coaches along with high performance coaches. These programs also provide students with the opportunity to seek employment within the Community Recreation sector, equipping them with industry-recognised qualifications and the aspiration to excel both academically and physically.



Victoria University Secondary College operates a personalised bus service for students from areas that are currently lacking public transport. The route can be varied to cater for student needs.



Senior Campus  
5A Jamieson Street  
St Albans Victoria 3021

**P** 03 8312 0200  
**F** 03 8312 0211

Junior Campus  
88 Billingham Road  
Deer Park Victoria 3023

**P** 03 9363 1155  
**F** 03 9363 8681

Trade Training Centre  
Cairnlea Campus  
43 Ken Jordan Rd  
Cairnlea Victoria 3023

Correspondence to:  
PO Box 83  
St Albans Victoria 3021

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