



VUSC News Issue Seven

This term our Year 7 to Year 11 students completed their mid year exams. At recent assemblies our Middle and Later Years Engagement Leaders gave very clear advice to students about how to prepare for exams, and about what effective study practices look like.

They were advised about our four key actions for success:

1. Complete all of the set work/homework
2. Make multiple choice topic/chapter summaries
3. Look over their Cornell summary notes
4. Do practice test or exam questions

We also encouraged students to see their teachers for extra help and support with their work.

All Year 12 VCE students will be sitting for their 'Practice Exams' in the last week of term

2. We do this early on in the year as it is the most crucial time for all Year 12 students to start putting in extra time and effort to their studies to get the most out their final year at school. It is compulsory that all students who are sitting external exams to attend. A Year 12 exam timetable will be distributed so that all students know when their exams are on.

Semester Reports will be available to parents on Compass from Tuesday 25 June. Bookings are now open for **Parent Teacher Interviews to be held on Thursday 27 June**. I encourage all parents to make appointments with your child's teachers to discuss their progress. **There are no classes on this day** as students are required to attend interviews with their parents.

Later Years Expo and Course Counselling

All Year 9, 10 & 11 students will take part in selecting their courses for next year early next term. This is an important time for students' future careers. Each student will have an individual appointment with a course counsellor and we will encourage students and families discuss their preferences before attending the appointment. The Later Years Expo will be held on Monday 29 July at the Senior Campus. More information will be provided to students early next term.

Jiangsu Sister School Visit

Next term in week 2 we will be receiving a visit from our Chinese sister school again. There will be 20 students and 3 teachers with us for the week. They have been invited to Government House for a Welcome Reception with other Victorian sister schools on Wednesday 24th July, and will spend the rest of the week in classes with our students. We will be holding a farewell assembly at the Junior Campus on Friday 26 July during period 4 which families are invited to attend. I would like to thank the parents and teachers who have volunteered to host the students.

A reminder to the families hosting our sister school students that an information night will be held on Thursday 27 June at 6.00pm at the Junior Campus in the library.

Rehearsals for our **School Theatre Production** are underway! Please note in your diaries Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th August to come along and support our students.

CSEF Application closing date Friday 28th June, 2019.

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provides a payment of \$225 for eligible secondary school students paid directly to the school, to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply, as well as certain students and families who fall into a special consideration category. Please contact the general office for more information.

The GAT (General Achievement Test) was completed on Wednesday 12 June by all students studying a Unit 3/4 subject this year (including language outside the school).

The General Achievement Test is a test of general knowledge and skills in written communication, mathematics, science and technology, humanities, the arts and social sciences taken by all Victorian students prior to completing their VCE.

Achievement on the GAT is a good predictor of achievement on other assessments. If students have done well on the GAT, then their achievements are likely to be high on their school-based and external assessments. Workshops were held during 'CSG sessions' for preparation for the GAT. It provided an opportunity for students to ask questions.

ProjectABLE

Our Year 11 VCAL students were involved in a 3.5 hour workshop on Monday 17 June led by people with a disability. The program aims to build disability awareness in the community and promote social inclusion. The group introduced students to the diversity of roles available in the community care and disability sector which is one of the fastest growing workforces in Australia. Students were given the opportunity to talk to facilitators and do some activities such as sign language and an activity that simulated being blind. The experience was an opportunity to learn from people with disabilities and learn the challenges that they face and experience on a daily basis.

VCAL ...COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVANCEMENT AND STUDENT EDUCATION (CHASE)

CHASE is a community initiative working to improve health through education.

Their goal is to see young people empowered to take control of their own health, to then engage with their local communities to improve health awareness and outcomes. Year 11 VCAL students were given the first of six health education sessions and met their tertiary student mentors. They will continue to have these education sessions during term 3 and then continue with mentors and partnerships with local community organizations and health professionals to improve community health.

The program is being run by a group of students primarily from the University of Melbourne, who will be assigned to the VCAL class for the duration of the year. These volunteers will act as mentors to the students, as positive role models and facilitating groups doing research on Nutrition, Mental Health, Physical Activity, Drugs & Alcohol just to name a few.

2019 ABCN Aspirations Program

Student Evaluation Summary

Several of our Year 10 students have been involved in the Aspirations Program this year, which is run by ABCN staff and involves business mentors from Hall and Wilcox meeting with our students over a number of sessions. The following table is a summary of the students' rating of the program (1=strongly disagree, 5=agree, 7=strongly agree). These results demonstrate that overall the students gained a lot from the program.

| Rating Area | Before Aspirations Rating 5-7 | After Aspirations Rating 5-7 |
|--|--|---|
| I feel prepared for the world of work | 50% | 100% |
| I am aware of a range of career options within a company | 43% | 93% |
| I understand my own personal brand | 14% | 93% |
| I understand the key employability skills and what employers are looking for | 28% | 93% |
| I understand how to perform in a job interview | 36% | 93% |
| I understand appropriate workplace behaviour | 64% | 100% |
| I am able to work effectively as part of a team | 64% | 100% |
| I can communicate my ideas to others | 71% | 93% |

Student Comments

- The most helpful thing I learnt was the wide range of employability skills, ranging from interview skills, to creating a personal brand, everything I learnt was extremely useful.
- I would recommend Aspirations because they allow you to understand the skills you need to bring to a job and build your self-esteem.
- I learnt to know that no matter what you do in life, whether it be making fences or being a lifeguard, there will always be transferable skills that you can apply to your personal brand or resume.
- When I apply for a future job or even university, I will be able to use these skills I have learnt along the way to get into the position desired.
- The most important thing I learned from my mentor is that if I fail in achieving what I want, I can calmly re-evaluate how I failed, to be a better person.
- The best thing I learnt from my mentors was to act confident, and be prepared for a job interview. A personal brand is important.
- Their attitude (mentors) and their passion about their career and their jobs really inspires me.
- I would recommend Aspirations because it's good for future school and super fun.
- It (Aspirations) is extremely beneficial, as the majority of these skills aren't necessarily taught at school. More people need to know.
- The mentors were very friendly and relatable. I am comfortable in talking to them about my plans for the future and my current issues in school.

Mentor Comments

- As the sessions went on, students who were quieter at the beginning spoke up more which was nice to see.
- Confidence! They believe in themselves and their abilities.
- Became more chatty and engaged as the weeks went on.

I have a meeting with Tony Macvean, Managing Partner at Hall and Wilcox on Tuesday 18th June to discuss further programs that ABCN could possibly provide to VUSC students.

DET Focus Group (Understanding engagement, disengagement and early school leaving in our school)

The Department has a state-wide, area and local challenge to reduce the number of students leaving school early (and not transitioning into and completing other learning pathways). They have requested to hold two focus groups at our school to hear from students about their

experiences - what is working well, and what we could do to make school more engaging.

The focus groups will be run by a qualified facilitator and led by Ruth Giles, DET Pathways Manager – Brimbank Melton Area next week at the Senior Campus. The 2.5 hour workshops will include VCE and VCAL students from year 11 and year 12. Each student will be encouraged to speak freely, and will not be able to be identified.

From my experience, students usually find experiences such as these empowering – they have a chance to express their opinions, and learn to see things from other's perspectives. I am hoping we will gain some insight as to how to engage disengaged students.

Please keep an eye on this newsletter and our Facebook page for important events coming up next term. Note that this newsletter can be translated into your language by using the Google Translate function at the bottom of each page.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing break these holidays.

Elaine Hazim
College Principal

Child Safety

Victoria University Secondary College is a child safe organisation committed to protecting students from all forms of abuse.

Our College has stringent protocols in place and endeavours at all times to be fully compliant with the Child Safe Standards set out under Ministerial Order 870.

Our College has the following documents and policies in place to achieve compliance with the Standards. All of these documents are available for downloading on our website or contact the school for a copy.

1. Commitment to Child Safety
2. Child Safety Policy
3. Child Safety Code of Conduct
4. Child Protection Policy and Procedures



Important Dates

Tuesday 18 June

Junior Music Soiree 6.00pm

Families are invited to attend an evening of musical performances by our talented junior music students. The soiree begins at 6:00pm in C block at the Junior Campus.

Tuesday 25 June

Semester 1 reports available on Compass.

Please contact your campus office if you require assistance to view your child's reports.

Tuesday 25 - Friday 28 June

Year 12 Exams

Thursday 27 June

Parent Teacher Interviews

Bookings are now open on Compass for Parent Teacher Interviews.

Interview times will be available from 1pm - 4:30pm and 5:30pm - 7pm at both campuses.

Thursday 27 June

Information Evening for host families of sister school students - 6.00pm

Families are should attend this brief information session in the Junior Campus library at 6pm to receive an information pack and ask any questions they may have.

Friday 28 June

Last day of Term 2

Monday 15 July

First day of Term 3

Monday 22 - Sunday 28 July

Chinese Sister School Visit

We are pleased to welcome our sister school students and teachers from China for a week long visit to Melbourne.

The Chinese visitors will stay with host families within our school community and enjoy sightseeing activities, a welcome reception at Government House and classes with our junior and senior students. An assembly will be held during period 4 on Friday 26 July at the Junior Campus which all families are invited to attend.

Monday 29 July

Later Years Expo - Senior Campus

Year 9 Session commences 5pm, Year 10 Session commences 6pm

Year 9 and 10 students and their parents/guardians should attend this evening expo at the Senior Campus. Teachers will be on hand to answer questions about all the Year 11 and 12 subjects on offer to help students make decisions about their chosen career path and course of study. A presentation by Leading Teachers and Principals will provide all you need to know about the VCE, VCAL, VET options, traineeships, apprenticeships, tertiary education, ATAR scores and more. Appointments for course counselling will be scheduled following the expo.

Monday 29 July

Rugby League Academy Information Session - Year 9 students 5.45pm; Year 10 & 11 students 6.45pm

An information session will be held at the Later Years Expo for students who are interested in joining the Rugby League Academy next year. Students not currently attending VUSC are welcome to attend. Current Academy students will be there with our Rugby Coach, Tony Adam to speak about their experiences in the Academy and answer questions.

To view a full calendar, please click [here](#).



Melbourne Uni Excursion

On Tuesday 21st of May, Year 9 students participated in an excursion for English which included intensive sessions on Macbeth with teachers, a walking tour of the University of Melbourne, and a lecture with Dr David McInnis, an expert in the studies of Shakespeare. This was a new experience for students at the college and was designed to enhance their studies in English this semester.

Mr Troy





Chinese Museum Excursion

On the 21st of May, our Year 10 and Year 11 Chinese language classes went to the Chinese Museum.

Students developed their understanding on the history of Chinese Australian's lifestyle and settlement in the last 200 years. They also learned the cultural and technological development and economic wealth through the remarkable people and great innovations of Chinese Han Dynasty.

Mr Ding and Miss Wang

Timotea (Thea) SAN JOSE, 11C

On the 21st of May, the Year 10 and 11 Chinese class with Miss Wang and Mr Ding went to the Museum of Chinese Australian History. It was really interesting as I was able to learn a lot about the Chinese immigrant story in the 1800s, prior to the gold rushes. We also learnt about some of the

famous inventions of the Han Dynasty, such as the Seismometer. In the underground floor, we were able to experience what it was like to be on a boat from China to Australia during the 17th century. There, we also saw a really long millennium dragon they use during Chinese New Year as well as the Moomba Festival. The weight of the dragon head alone is 200kg and requires eight people to hold it! I recommend this museum to anyone who would be interested in learning about the Chinese lifestyle and culture in Melbourne.

Hang Zheng (Mike) YU, 11A

What impressed me the most was the rich-cultural atmosphere of the museum. The museum is divided into four levels. Each layer represents a different topic. The famous sayings of Confucius on level three made me think about our learning experiences.

Confucius is a great master of Chinese philosophy. His famous sayings have been passed from generation to generation. There are several copies of his famous sayings in the museum, for example, "to learn without thinking is to be reckless, but to think without learning is perilous." That means if we read or learn without our own thinking, we will not be able to understand or use the knowledge properly and effectively, even get into confusion. However, if we only dream and do not take genuine study and research, nothing can be achieved eventually, just like building a tower on the sand.

Ashleigh Pamintuan, 10C

On the 21st of May, year 10 and year 11 students went to the Chinese museum in China town. While we were there, we visited the top level and there was some

information about the history of Chinese immigrants and how they had come over to Australia. As well there were ingredients to create Chinese medicine. Basically, Chinese medicine is just the raw version of our pills and each herb cures a different sickness.

After going through that level, we headed to the next and there was Chinese machinery that includes a machine that could detect earthquakes by dropping a ball. And there was a jade burial suit. It was believed that being buried in that suit would preserve the life well after death. There was also information on the Chinese Philosophers like Confucius that people followed.

While walking into the last part of the museum, it was dark. When going into it, we saw what ancient Chinese people wore, such as men had to have long hair or else there was a punishment. We listened to a story of what some people did back in the day, after listening to the story, there was a hallway that was a simulation of being inside a boat, through which we went further into the museum.

There was a place where you shook a can for a few minutes until a stick with a number would come out. You look at the number and look for the paper referred by the number and you would see a paper that relates to your life. When move on, there was a big dragon costume that was very long and lead to the main floor. I learnt so much from China's history, nations and beliefs. I believe that the next or other Chinese students should go to the Chinese museum to learn and know more about Chinese culture.

Chloe Woods, 10B

Our excursion to the Chinese museum taught us about the impacts of the gold rush and the potential that other countries saw

at the time, we also learnt about Chinese dynasty's and their impact on Chinese society. When going through the sections of the museum about the gold rush we learnt that to those of a Chinese background it was seen as a great opportunity to start fresh and also utilize Australia's benefits of being a country of opportunity. The Chinese immigrants also felt as if their skills could be used in the development of Australia and could possibly find more work that wasn't available to them in China. When going through the sections of the dynasty's and Chinese culture, we learnt about the way Chinese people used to dress and how Chinese women would have their feet bound if they were of a higher class in order to appear more attractive. There was also a lot of information about the Han Dynasty and the different inventions that were developed such as a seismograph and negative numbers. Along with this, we learnt of the importance of the Silk Road and how it made trade to other countries more achievable. As we kept going through the museum we learnt about the different beliefs that were a part of Chinese history such as Confucius who largely influenced Chinese beliefs and customs, as a part of this we also learnt about the Chinese beliefs of what happened after death and how in the past the Chinese would place their dead in Jade armour to preserve them and their soul.

Overall, the Chinese Museum excursion really helped us to understand Chinese culture and history and gave us a greater appreciation for the Chinese language when trying to read the descriptions.

Cecilia Nguyen, 10A

On Tuesday the 21st of May the year 10 and year 11 students that learnt Chinese, received the opportunity to go visit the Chinese

Immigration Museum. During our trip we learnt many things, including the different waves of Chinese immigrants that came to Australia and their reason for migrating. We also learnt about the Han Dynasty, their inventions and the Silk Road in which many different countries and states in China went to, to do trading. As we came to conclude our tour in the museum, we went to one final level where we got to experience and listen to the story of a Chinese immigrant who came to Australia by boat. On that level, some of us got the chance to experience dressing up in the traditional clothing for Chinese Opera and we all tested our luck at a type of fortune telling. Finally, there was an extremely large dragon in which we followed to exit the level and finally complete our tour of the Chinese Immigration Museum. Although we did not get to see all the levels of the museum, it will still be an experience that we all had fun and gained a lot of knowledge from, and the excursion will also be a memory that we all will cherish and remember.





Later Years Expo & Course Counselling

Term 3 Week 3

Monday 29th July - Friday 2nd August

Year 9 and Year 10 students and their families will receive information in coming weeks regarding the Later Years Expo on Monday 29 July. Teachers will be on hand to answer questions about all the Year 11 and 12 subjects on offer to help students make decisions about their chosen career path and course of study. A presentation by Leading Teachers and Principals will provide all you need to know about the VCE, VCAL, VET options, subject selections, traineeships, apprenticeships, tertiary education, ATAR scores and more.

Year 9 Information Session begins 5.00pm

Year 10 Information Session begins 6.00pm

Venue: Drama Room and Gymnasium, Senior Campus

A light supper will be provided.

Families will receive an appointment to attend a course counselling session with their child during the week to select subjects for 2020.



Join our Rugby League Academy in 2020

Scholarships Available for 2020

Year 9 and Year 10 students who are interested in joining our Rugby League Academy in 2020 are invited to attend the Rugby League Academy Information Evening on:

Monday 29 July at 6.45pm

Drama Room, Senior Campus St Albans

Students outside VUSC are welcome to attend. Meet our expert coaches and learn about how they provide students with specialised and individual support in skill development and strength and conditioning in order to compete at the elite level. Current and past Academy students will also be in attendance.

Rugby League Academy Scholarships will be available for entry in Year 10 or Year 11 next year. Please see the brochure below or speak to Mr Tony Adam at the Senior Campus. Applications open in Term 3 and will close Friday 23 August 2019.

Our Senior Team currently competes in the NRL Schoolboy Cup - a Tier 1 competition with only 18 teams Australia wide. For more information about our Rugby League Academy, click [here](#).



Year 10 Scholarships

Applications are available for entry in Year 10 2020

Scholarships valued at \$450 are available in the following categories:

- Academic Excellence
- Music Excellence
- Rugby League Academy - entry at Year 10 or Year 11

Please see the attached brochures or our website [here](#). **Applications will open in Term 3 and close Friday 23 August 2019.**

Come to our Later Years Expo on Monday 29 July at the Senior Campus to learn about the numerous pathway options and subjects available.

Scholarship applications will be available at the Campus offices and Later Years Expo evening.



Community News

Sunshine Hospital Needs Volunteers!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT - Sunshine Hospital is seeking volunteers to assist their patients and staff in the following roles: helping people find their way around the hospital, gardening, meal time support and fundraising. We are also seeking volunteers who could assist with supporting our community in the Emergency department. All training, uniform and car parking is supplied. If you have 3 or 4 hours per week that you can offer, please contact volunteer@wh.org.au or call 8395 9092 - we would love to hear from you.