



VUSC News Issue One

Welcome to Term 1

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Happy New Year and welcome to the new 2020 school year. I know staff are all looking forward to an exciting and successful year. I spoke to the students at their first assembly regarding making the most of their talents and doing their best throughout the year to achieve success. Last year our VCE results improved again. Our VCE Mean English Study Score improved from 29.95 in 2018 to 31.03 in 2019 (which is above the State mean) and our VCE Median Study Score improved from 26 in 2018 to 28 in 2019. I fully expect that VUSC will continue to improve and achieve better results from our students this year.

The school is certainly off to a positive and settled start, with all Year 8 to 12 students having commenced their 2020 step-up programs at the end of last year, where they attended classes and had an introduction to all subjects for this year. Other organisational matters such as the allocation of lockers were also attended to at the end of last year, which has helped to minimise disruption to students' classes now. It is hoped that this uninterrupted start will assist students to sharpen their focus on their learning from the beginning of the year.

I would like to give a very special welcome to our new Year 7 students, who are a delightful group, and to all those students who are new to other year levels, and to their families. We hope that you enjoy your time here at Victoria University Secondary College and that it is rewarding for you both educationally and personally.

As is always the case, we look forward to working together with parents to support our students to reach the levels of achievement they are individually capable of. Again, we invite parents to work together with us this year to ensure students are meeting the basic requirements necessary for success in their studies. These include:

- Excellent attendance and punctuality
- Bringing the appropriate books and equipment each day
- Using class time effectively

- Completing homework
- Keeping to deadlines for submission of work
- Putting in maximum effort at all times.

The last point on 'maximum effort' is one that underlies all of the others, and it will be explicitly emphasised with the students throughout the year. Of course, the chances of this message being conveyed successfully will be much greater if it is also reinforced at home, so we will be most appreciative if parents too can emphasise the importance of consistent and persistent effort. A checklist is attached of what parents and guardians can do to support their children with their schooling this year:

New Staff

The College is also very pleased to welcome the following staff who are joining the teaching and education support teams this year:

Prithvi Singh – Physical Education/ Strength & Conditioning

Ashleigh Koo – Mathematics Learning Specialist

Jessilla Rogers – English / Humanities

Chao Li – Chinese / EAL

Laz Panagiotidis – IT / Maths

Mary Papaioannou – Wellbeing Team Administration

Michael Smith – Music

Chelsea Chappel – Psychology / Biology

Lauren Muscat – English/Health

Tony Trieu – IT / Science / Maths

Charlie McCahey – English/Humanities

Athena Vass – Instructional Coach and Literacy Leader

We welcome them and wish them all the very best at Victoria University Secondary College.

Year 12 VCE Results

Congratulations to the VCE Class of 2019 on their excellent results; the hard work and dedication of both the students and teachers has meant we have maintained or improved upon most of our previous years' results. The school has improved its median and mean ATAR (Australian Tertiary Entrance Rank) results significantly by a 10% increase from 2018. The school has also improved its mean study score of English from 29.95 in 2018 to 31.03 in 2019; this is a significant improvement and the Education Department has certainly recognised this. Our aim and goal for 2020 is to continue to improve not only our VCE results but our students overall learning outcomes from Years 7 to 12.

College Captains

On behalf of the whole school community, I am delighted to announce our **College Captains for 2020**.

Congratulations to **Chantel Moncur** and **Poasa Telepe** who have been elected Captains and to Vice Captains **Viliami Faiva** and **Kristopher Kokkinidis**.

Congratulations also to our **Junior Campus Captains: Joseph Passi Jnr** and **Rebecca Tat**, and our Junior Vice Captains: **Jeffrey Junior San Miguel** and **Chanel Sali**.

Each of these students have already shown themselves to be really deserving of these leadership roles, and we look forward to working with them and all of our student leaders.

Mobile Phone Policy

This year the Department of Education has enforced a new Mobile Phone - Student Use Policy for all government schools. The policy states that students who bring a mobile phone to school must have it switched off and stored in their locker from the first bell to the last bell of the day. Families may ring the school office if they need a message given to their child. The College Board has

approved the new policy which is attached below as well as a list of frequently asked questions. Students and their parents will also be required to sign an agreement regarding computer, internet and mobile phone use at the beginning of the year.

New School Plans

2020 will see some exciting developments for our students and community. Victoria University Secondary College has been allocated \$23.9M in funding by the State Government for new school facilities at our Cairnlea campus on Furlong Road and building is scheduled to commence in June this year. The College is working with Patrick Architects and the Victorian School Building Authority on this major project. The architectural plans for Stage 1 have been published on our website and can be found [here](#).

Open House

Our Open House will be held on **Tuesday 17 March** at the Junior Campus. This is a great opportunity for prospective parents and students to see our classes in action and hear about the rich program of learning and extra curricular activities that we offer. Our Middle School Leader, Mr Saker will be visiting local primary schools with information for Grade 5 and 6 students. There will be morning tours at 9am and 10.10am and an evening session including interactive tours from 6pm.

Privacy reminder

Families are reminded that our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take the time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website and attached below.

For more information about privacy, see: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#). This information also available in nine community languages.

Reminder for Year 9 families

Year 9 students will be attending a number of excursions for the Inquiry and Health programs throughout 2020. Could parents please ensure that the parent consent forms are returned by the second Wednesday of each term. Alternatively, parents are able to submit consent for their child online through the Compass app.

Homework Club

Homework Club runs at the Junior Campus from 3.05 pm until 3.45pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the Resource Centre. This is an excellent opportunity for students to revise the day's work, research assignments, get help with any topics they are struggling with or just read a book.

Homework club participants must be willing to work, as these sessions are provided by staff to enable students to access extra assistance with their work. Non-productive attendees will be sent home.

A permission form must be collected from office and returned as soon as possible to participate.

Reminders from the Office

Students are reminded that sunscreen is available at the general office all year round in line with our Sun Protection Policy.

Families are reminded that FREE stationery boxes are still available when you pay your child's Essential Items in full. The boxes contain all stationery as required on the booklist.

Student Computer and Mobile Phone Use Agreements must be signed and returned to your Home Group teacher as soon as possible.

Finally,

Thank you to all of our parents and guardians for your excellent support in ensuring that your sons and daughters have been well prepared for the start of the year. We have had such a positive start, and this is in part due to your efforts, especially with books, equipment, devices and uniform. If you have any concerns or questions about how your child has settled in, please do not hesitate to contact their Year Level Co-ordinator.

Elaine Hazim

College Principal

Child Safety at VUSC

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

Year 12 Success Information Evening

Tuesday 11 February 6.00pm

Senior Campus Study Centre

Year 12 students and their families are invited to attend the Success Information Evening to gain a deeper understanding of how to best succeed in their final year of schooling.

Parents will be given strategies on how to best support their child including motivation techniques, stress management, common issues and how to overcome them, information about good study habits and the difference between homework and study.

Staff Professional Development Day (no classes)

Wednesday 12 February

The College Board has approved this day as a student free day. Teachers will be analysing student data and determining how they can best support each student throughout the year. The general offices will be open.

School Photos

Friday 14 February

Catch up date if absent: Wednesday 19 February

Year 7 Meet the Teachers Evening

Tuesday 18 February 6.00pm

Junior Campus

Year 7 students and their families are invited to attend the Junior Campus at 6.00pm for a 'meet and greet' and barbecue. This informal evening gives parents the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and ask any questions they may have about their child's schooling.

\$20 payment and permission forms due for Swimming and Athletics Carnivals

Friday 28 February

Swimming Carnival

Friday 6 March

Once again our College will be holding its annual Swimming Carnival at St Albans Leisure Centre where students will have the opportunity to participate in events and win points for their House. Students are encouraged to come dressed in their House colours to support their peers on the day. Students will be transported in buses to and from school.

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



Careers Information Y7-12

Careers Information for Year 7 – 12 students and families

All students in Years 7 – 12 will complete a Career Action Plan in 2020. To assist you in preparing for this, please take some time to explore our VUSC Careers Website. The Careers website contains links to many useful resources to help students think about careers that align with their interests and strengths and plan for their future pathways. There is a 'For Parents' section to equip parents and families with information to support their child's decision making.

The Careers Website can be accessed directly at <https://vusecondarycollegecareers.com/> or through the link under the 'School Favourites' menu on Compass.



Kristy Muratore
Careers Coordinator



Buy and Sell Uniforms/Books

Buy and Sell Items on the Sustainable School Shop Website

Register on the Sustainable School Shop website at www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au to buy and sell items with other local families.

The school's booklists and uniform lists are loaded into the system to make the ad listing process easy, fast and accurate. Browse ads for free and list your items to sell for as little as \$1.50 each.

Uniforms and textbooks can be listed, as well as calculators, sports equipment, musical equipment, stationery and more. See the attached brochure for more information.



Community News

Sunshine Youth Space

Sunshine Youth Space is located at 28 Withers St, Sunshine and is designed to provide a safe space for local youths to take part in activities at no cost. Please see their flyers below for current programs and events.



Parenting Ideas

Our school is a Parenting Ideas School

Parenting Ideas was founded by Michael Grose, author of nine parenting books and parenting educator to over 1500 Australian schools.

Parenting Ideas features up-to-date research, timely advice and inspiration, providing parenting strategies on everything from sibling rivalry, teen health and creating resilience in kids, for children of all ages.

Parents and guardians can view articles published regularly in our newsletter and access free webinar vouchers valued at \$37.